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OPINION METER

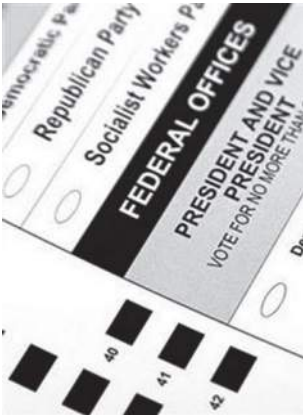
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INSIDE

BUSINESS



Eventually, the economic recovery will pick up steam—whether Barack Obama or Mitt Romney is in the White House.

► PAGE 13

ASIA



36 bodies have been recovered from a boat packed with holiday revelers that sunk after colliding with a ferry.

► PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE



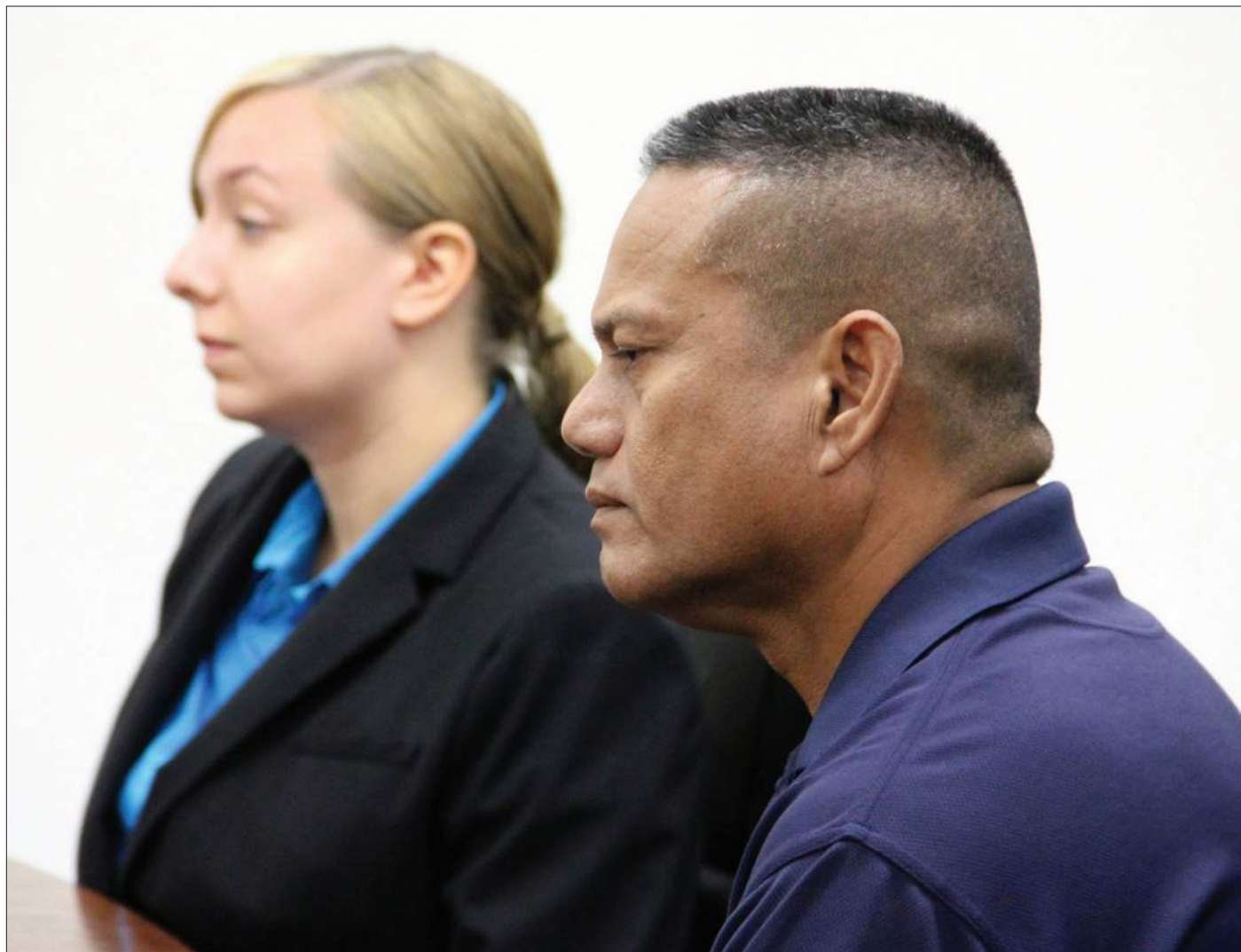
Drew Barrymore and her husband, Will Kopelman, welcomed a baby girl.

► PAGE 18

AT ONGOING IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS

Ex-AG didn't want to be served penal summons

► Some law enforcers say they thought Buckingham's airport escort meant only to avoid media



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Department of Public Safety acting commissioner Aniceto Ogomoro, right, testifies before a Special Committee on Impeachment, while assistant attorney general Lynnette Van Wyngarden looks on yesterday on Capital Hill. Ogomoro told the committee he didn't know about the use of police and ports police officers to escort former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham on Aug. 4, until he learned about it in the media later, raising concern from some lawmakers about his duties and responsibilities as top official of DPS.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham avoided being served a penal summons by the Office of the Public Auditor from the moment he found out about it in the afternoon of Aug. 3, one of the witnesses told the Special Committee on Impeachment on Capital Hill yesterday.

See EX-AG on Page 4

WITH ONLY \$1.9M FOR FY 2013

Further reduction in force, drastic measures in the offing for CHC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

As if it wasn't short-handed enough, the number of employees at the Commonwealth Health Center is anticipated to further go down after the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced a reduction in force and other drastic measures will be implemented in the coming weeks.

Corporation board chair Joaquin Torres and CEO Juan N. Babauta said the RIF decision was made as a result of the inaction of the Legislature to provide the hospital at least the minimum amount it needs to cover the cost of providing services to the indigent population.

Under the fiscal year 2013 budget law, the corporation—now an autonomous agency—was appropriated only \$1.95 million.

The amount is far below the \$10 million the corporation has been requesting for its operation in the next 12 months.

The Legislature appropriated only \$1.9 million in anticipation of the \$7-million line of credit earlier approved for the corporation.

But in a recent meeting of

See FURTHER on Page 4

Fital wants 5% increase in hotel tax

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fital is asking the Legislature to act swiftly on a proposal to increase the hotel occupancy tax by 5 percent, in-

stead of imposing a new \$15 fee on transient occupants of hotels and motels which was supposed to be implemented last July 1 to help fund the overseas marketing and promotion of the CNMI as a

See FITAL on Page 4

Healthcare Corp. eliminates staff housing allowance. PAGE 2
Wiseman disallows Buckingham's motion for reconsideration. PAGE 3

Local

Healthcare Corp. eliminates staff housing allowance

» Babauta says salary adjustment for affected personnel takes effect on November

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Employees of the Commonwealth Health Center hired from off-island are no longer entitled to housing allowance after the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced the elimination of the benefit in the new contract of employees effective November.

However, corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta announced that salaries of affected em-

ployees will be adjusted starting next month as he decided to built-in the housing allowance portion of their employees' previous contracts into their monthly wages.

As part of the benefit package provided to off-island hires in the hospital, the then-Department of Health provided \$600 monthly housing allowance to single employees, while \$800 per month were given to those with families. Due to budget constraints, this benefit has

been delayed for eight months now or from March through October.

In acknowledging the corporation's unpaid housing allowance to personnel, Babauta said the corporation remains committed in fulfilling its obligation once funding is identified for the purpose.

According to Babauta, he is finalizing how much percent-



Babauta

age of the previous housing allowance will be built-in to the employees' salary. But he assured that the potential percentage is 50 percent or higher and will be enforced across-the-board in the spirit of fairness to all affected employees.

The CEO pointed out that the decision to eliminate the housing provision in employees' contract is due to the scarce resources of the corporation, which has made payroll and

hospital supplies its top priorities. The decision is to make sure that employees are getting a portion of their previous housing benefit on a regular basis because it is now part of their salary.

The housing allowance of employees is issued during first week of each month through a separate check.

Yesterday, an 18-year CHC employee described the CEO's decision as a boost in the morale of employees. The employee said in these challenging times, the decision to built-in a portion of the housing allowance into employees' salary shows the corporation's commitment and care to its personnel.

A nurse for five years, meantime, is hopeful of the corporation's promise to pay—little by little—the unpaid housing allowance.

The board earlier voted to scrap the housing benefits for employees. The decision was recommended by the advisory board to the CEO, who makes the final determination.

Saipan Tribune learned that approximately \$1.2 million is being spent by the hospital annually in providing housing perks to over 200 personnel, most of who are nurses hired from the Philippines.

A number of hospital staff temporarily stopped receiving their housing perks in 2009 as a result of declining government revenues and collections. Because of that a significant number of off-island hires left the CNMI and accepted positions in the U.S. mainland. Due to numerous resignations, the housing privilege was restored in consideration of the current staffing needs of the hospital.

New laws OK land for Tinian Veterans Cemetery, amend Social Security statute

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed not only the \$114-million budget law on Sunday, but also two other public laws that include reserving 2 hectares of public land on Tinian for the future site of a Tinian Veterans Cemetery. The second one makes "technical" correction to a new law expressing the CNMI government's interest in rejoining the U.S. Social Security program.

The governor signed Rep. Trenton Conner's (R-Tinian) Tinian Veterans Cemetery Designation Act of 2011 into Public Law 17-84.

Conner, in an interview yesterday, said it's good that this early, public lands are already being reserved for a future veterans' cemetery on Tinian because of what he described as "limited" lands on the island.

He pointed out that two-thirds of Tinian lands are leased by the U.S. Department of Defense, and another proposal seeks to designate some 50 percent of remaining public lands on Tinian to be designated for homesteads.

"So the significance of this bill is to reserve those two hectares now before we'd run out of available public lands on Tinian. I am glad that the governor signed this bill into law. We will have site reserved for a veterans' cemetery where we could bury our soldiers or veterans from Tinian, and in a way this is honoring them for their

service to our country," Conner told Saipan Tribune.

The new law, however, does not specify a deadline or timeline for the Department of Public Lands to designate 2 hectares of public lands for a future veterans' cemetery site on Tinian.

PL 17-84, which was previously Conner's House Bill 17-96, says families from Tinian who have loved ones buried in Marpi on Saipan are unable to afford the exorbitant airline fee, car rental, food, and other expenses when traveling to Saipan to visit their deceased loved ones.

It says the financial and emotional burden that is placed on each member of the bereaved family is "too burdensome during their time of loss coupled with the current financial difficulty many of our people face today because of our ailing economy."

The governor also signed into law Sen. Jovita Taimanao's (Ind-Rota) bill that makes a "technical correction" to a Social Security statute, Public Law 17-79.

Fitial signed Taimanao's Senate Bill 17-108 into Public Law 17-86.

The law expresses the CNMI's desire to have "the insurance system established by Title II of the U.S. Social Security Act extended to the elected officials and employees of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and its political subdivisions and instrumentalities as provided in 26 USC 3101 and 3111."



Fitial

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Wiseman disallows Buckingham's motion for reconsideration

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has issued an order disallowing former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham's motion to reconsider the court's order that declared him a fugitive from justice.

In the order issued Saturday, Wiseman ruled that because Buckingham is still absent from the court's jurisdiction, he remains disentitled from having the court consider any motion or argument on his behalf, as explained in the

court's prior order.

The prior order that the judge was referring to was issued on Sept. 11, 2012. The order particularly stated that: Before the court will use judicial resources in weighing any of defendant's claims or arguments, defendant must be present in the CNMI so that any order or judgment rendered by the court may be enforced.

Wiseman said in that order he determined that Buckingham was a fugitive and was disentitled from using court resources to adjudicate his claims until he returns to the CNMI, thereby



Wiseman

submitting himself to the court's jurisdiction.

On Sept. 18, 2012, Buckingham, through counsel Brien

Sers Nicholas, filed the motion to reconsider the court's order that denied his request to quash the \$50,000 bench warrant that Wiseman issued against him.

In that motion, Nicholas moved to dismiss the criminal case filed against Buckingham and also asked to court to strike an order declaring the former AG a fugitive from justice.

Nicholas also disclosed to the court an alleged confidential letter dated Jan. 25, 2012 sent by Office of Public Auditor Michael Pai to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Nicholas said the letter concerns the OPA's investigation into the "factual circumstances" forming the basis for the three counts of the initial information filed against Buckingham by OPA counsel Hasselback.

In Buckingham's motion to reconsider the court's order denying his motion to quash the arrest warrant, Nicholas said the issuance of the bench warrant in the amount

of \$50,000 cash for the arrest of Buckingham and the subsequent denial of his motion to quash the bench warrant were in errors as a matter of law.

OPA legal counsel Hasselback, however, then asked the court to clarify whether or not if the court will entertain at this time Buckingham's motion for reconsideration.

Hasselback said it is his understanding that Wiseman's Sept. 11, 2012 order means that the court will not entertain any further motions by Buckingham until such time he returns to the CNMI to subject himself to the court's jurisdiction.

The order would preclude consideration of Buckingham's motion for reconsideration and therefore, obviate the need for a response to it at this time, said the OPA legal counsel who is

also serving as an assistant attorney general in this case.

Wiseman agreed with Hasselback and disallowed Buckingham's motion.

OPA filed seven criminal misdemeanor charges against Buckingham. An FBI special agent reportedly served Buckingham with the penal summons at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport shortly after he and his wife left Saipan at 6am on a Delta Air Lines flight to Narita, Japan last Aug. 4.

Razzano intends to file joinder to CNMI govt motion to dismiss Johnson's lawsuit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund's trustee ad litem Joseph C. Razzano yesterday disclosed that he intended either to file a joinder to the CNMI government's motion to dismiss retiree Betty Johnson's class action or a separate motion to dismiss.

Razzano revealed such plan during a status conference in which he discussed the Fund's status report before U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood.

Razzano did not elaborate about his plan on the motion to dismiss.

Razzano's announcement prompted Tydingco-Gatewood to amend the scheduling order in order to give the parties in the case and the court adequate time to prepare.

The judge gave the trustee ad litem until Oct. 30, 2012 to file his joinder or motion to dismiss.

Tydingco-Gatewood said any opposition to the government's motion to dismiss and to Razzano's motion shall be filed by Nov. 30, 2012.

Replies shall be filed by Dec. 14, 2012, said the judge, adding that after review of the pleadings, she will thereafter schedule the matters for hearing.

Attorney Stephen Woodruff, local counsel for Johnson, in an interview after the hearing, said it's interesting to hear directly from Razzano about such plan although he (Woodruff) does not know what the position the Fund is going to take.

Woodruff said they, however, have to wait until the end of October to know what Razzano's position is.

On Friday, Tydingco-Gatewood decided that she wants to first address Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's and co-defendants' motion to dismiss Johnson's class action before hearing other motions.

Tydingco-Gatewood vacated her previous order that set a hearing on the preliminary injunction for yesterday.

At yesterday's status conference, Razzano underscored the

need for the Fund to hire an in-house counsel considering the many problems plus daily issues that come up.

Tydingco-Gatewood suggested to have an assistant attorney general who never participated in the lawsuits involving the Fund to serve as in-house counsel.

Attorney Margery Bronster, counsel for Johnson, said having an assistant attorney general as in-house counsel for the Fund



Razzano

will have a conflict of interest.

Razzano in an interview said he does not know who will be the in-house counsel until they determine whether Fitial is going to give the concurrence.

Razzano said if Fitial will not concur, he will advertise the position in the newspaper and interview attorneys qualified for the position.

Meanwhile, Tydingco-Gatewood issued an order on Monday with respect to payment to Razzano's services as trustee ad litem.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the remuneration for services rendered by the Civile and Tang law firm, where Razzano is a member, shall be paid by the CNMI government in accordance with the letter of engagement.

Razzano wrote a letter of engagement to Tydingco-Gatewood on Sept. 14, 2012.

The letter of engagement explains the fees that the law firm and Razzano will be charging as trustee ad litem.

In the letter, Razzano disclosed that his hourly rate is \$250. He also revealed that in addition to fees, costs, which are expenditures required for various purposes in connection

with the handling of a particular matter, will be incurred.

Razzano said costs are entirely separate from professional fees and include such items as filing and recording fees, fees for services of process, travel expenses, hotel accommodations, photocopying costs, long distance telephone and facsimile costs, computer research costs, special messenger costs, and similar items.

Razzano said from time to time, other attorneys and staff from their law firm will be utilized as may be needed to support and assist him in his duties.

With respect to attorney Braddock Huesman's role at the Fund, Razzano said yesterday that Huesman is counsel for the Fund in Johnson's pending lawsuit as well as in the Superior Court case.

"I'm glad that Huesman agreed to come on board. We need an attorney. We need somebody to go to hearings. He has institutional knowledge of the case," Razzano said.

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‘Justices used invalid ConCon transcript on gambling law issue ruling’

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Representative Joseph M. Palacios (R-Saipan) believes that the CNMI Supreme Court did not fully address the certified question pertaining to gambling law.

Palacios yesterday asked the high court to conduct a rehearing and/or consider its ruling.

Palacios filed the motion prose or without a lawyer.

Last month, the CNMI Supreme Court ruled that a mu-

nicipality does not have the authority to pass a law allowing gambling.

The justices answered in the negative to a certified question whether a local law, enacted to Article II, Section 6 of the CNMI Constitution by a senatorial district of the legislature, a Commonwealth law under Article XXI of the NMI Constitution.

A local law cannot set aside the ban on gambling found in the CNMI Constitution, said the Supreme Court’s opinion issued by

Associate Justice John A. Manglona and justices pro tem Perry B. Inos and Herbert D. Soll.

In his motion for rehearing and/or reconsideration, Palacios said the Supreme Court did not follow the rules covering clarification by not properly notifying the parties in the case to amend their certification order and change the language of the original question.

Palacios said the Legislature is still in a continued state of misinformation about what constitutes

the entire Commonwealth body of law, since the Judicial Branch has decided to rewrite the Legislature’s question instead of answering the full question that was originally—not partially—accepted by the high court.

He said their original question is: Is a local law, enacted pursuant to Article II, Section 6 of the NMI Constitution by a senatorial district or the legislature, a Commonwealth law for all purposes, including but not limited to, Article XXI of the

NMI Constitution?

“The court decided on its own to step outside the boundaries of the democratic doctrine of the separation of powers and draft its own legislative question surrounding only Article XXI to possibly fit an agenda to answer the critics of gambling on Saipan,” the lawmaker said.

Palacios said the justices relied their opinion more on the Article XXI “full transcript,” which according to him had several typographical errors and

omissions, and basically dismissed the partial transcript that was verified by the Northern Marianas College archives.

Palacios said the justices failed to note that the “full transcript” was never officially signed off by the 2nd Constitutional Convention president Herman T. Guerrero.

He said the “full transcript” is essentially invalid and makes the court’s selective argument against him subject to bias and errors.

EX-AG

From Page 1

This refusal by the CNMI’s highest law enforcement official to be served a penal summons spawned a series of events that the public now knows too well, including threats from police to arrest OPA investigators if they continue to serve the summons to Buckingham and the use of armed police and ports police officers as escorts to allegedly shield Buckingham from being served the summons until his departure from Saipan on Aug. 4.

An FBI agent, however, was able to serve Buckingham the penal summons after OPA sought the FBI’s help.

OPA chief investigator Juan Santos and investigator Juanette David-Atalig said on this matter involving Buckingham, the Department of Public Safety and the Commonwealth Ports Authority Ports Police didn’t help them serve the penal summons.

The Impeachment Committee, however, was not able to confirm from any of the witnesses called yesterday whether or when Buckingham asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for help to avoid being served the summons in connection with criminal charges that OPA filed

against him.

The panel is reviewing a resolution to impeach Fitial for 16 allegations of felony, corruption, and neglect of duty.

Fitial’s police escort/driver, Capt. Jermaine Nekaifes, was among those who escorted Buckingham to the airport.

Nekaifes invoked his constitutional right to legal representation of his own choosing and the right to remain silent, when he was called in by the Impeachment Committee to testify yesterday morning.

Other law enforcement officers also invoked their Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights.

Assistant attorney general Gil Birnrich told the Impeachment Committee yesterday afternoon that he and Buckingham talked over the phone about the penal summons that OPA was trying to serve the AG in the afternoon of Aug. 3, the same day Buckingham and Fitial signed a no-bid \$190.8-million, 25-year power purchase agreement that is also a subject of the impeachment.

Birnrich said Buckingham told him OPA personnel were at his apartment, trying to serve him a penal summons. He said the former AG told him he’s not letting them in at the apartment.

The assistant AG said he contacted OPA legal counsel

George Hasselback and was able to confirm that OPA was trying to serve a penal summons to Buckingham in connection with a gathering at the governor’s house and award of an ARRA contract.

Birnrich also told the committee that no one from the Office of the Attorney General accepted the penal summons.

Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), chairman of the Impeachment Committee, said based on Birnrich’s testimony, Buckingham stated he did not wish to accept the penal summons.

“I wonder if...can anybody do that? Can I, as an ordinary citizen, refuse to accept a penal summons issued by the court? I don’t know if you asked him, what’s the basis for his refusal? Do you know?” Deleon Guerrero asked Birnrich.

Birnrich said he didn’t ask.

He, however, said it may have been related to the “adverse relations” between the attorney general and Public Auditor Mike Pai. But Birnrich said he was only speculating about this, as he didn’t ask Buckingham.

Deleon Guerrero said Buckingham, as “somebody who is responsible for enforcing the law, the top law enforcement officer of the Commonwealth, knew what

was being served yet he admitted to refusing to accept it.”

‘Avoiding the media’

Ports Police Capt. John Rebuénog, one of the law enforcers who provided escort to Buckingham and his wife Pam at the airport, told the Impeachment Committee yesterday that he was told by DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogomoro that Buckingham “does not want to be bothered by the media” so he was given escorts.

Rebuénog said it wasn’t unusual for police and ports police officers to provide escorts to VIPs, including carrying their luggage.

Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) asked Rebuénog whether he knows if the governor was “directly involved” with the issue at the airport.

Rebuénog said he’s not aware of this.

Denials

CPA Ports Police chief Jordan Kosam was also called to testify.

The Special Committee read to Kosam a written supplemental report from OPA stating that Kosam told Capt. Joseph Palacios over the phone that, “no summons to be served to attorney general Ed Buckingham and to take that summons and

throw it in the trash can and he is on his way to the airport.”

Kosam denied saying this.

Kosam also initially said he wasn’t aware of the penal summons to be served to Buckingham. Later on he said he had concerns about the penal summons, particularly OPA’s authority and jurisdiction.

He told the committee that he told another officer to serve the summons to Buckingham if he feels like it but he said he communicated that he will feel more comfortable if OPA is the one to serve the summons to Buckingham.

No internal investigation

DPS acting commissioner Aniceto Ogomoro, in his testimony, told the Impeachment Committee he wasn’t at the airport around the time the Buckinghams were escorted.

A report received by the Committee mentioned that Aniceto Ogomoro was at the airport although it may be for a different matter.

Aniceto Ogomoro said he only learned about the incident involving the Buckinghams at the airport from the media.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) and Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) asked him why this is

so, when they believe an acting commissioner as the top official at DPS should be aware of major incidents involving his men.

When asked by committee members whether he initiated an internal investigation upon learning about the incident, he said no.

But a Senate committee later asked DPS and CPA to conduct internal investigations.

Atty. Robert Torres, counsel for CPA, said he’s aware that CPA is conducting an ongoing investigation of the incident but this has not been completed yet.

Testimony from OPA investigators on Monday linked the governor to the airport incident. They also said DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogomoro instructed DPS police officers not to assist OPA investigators in serving a penal summons against Buckingham and that Ogomoro also allegedly threatened to have OPA investigator Juanette David-Atalig arrested by DPS if she insists on serving the penal summons.

A DPS police officer also told OPA that he believes Ogomoro “was giving all this instruction because it may be that the Buckinghams have already informed the governor and that there instructions were coming from the top.”

FURTHER

From Page 1

the Marianas Public Land Trust board of trustees, it was confirmed that until the corporation has no paying capability, the additional line of credit will not be released.

MPLT said one hope for its release is the passage of sin tax bill, which the House of Representatives has yet to introduce.

Babauta said the \$1.9 million is even lower than the

\$5 million seed money appropriated to the organization in FY 2012 or equivalent to \$400,000 monthly allotment to the corporation.

This amount, according to Babauta and Torres, would no longer be made available for the organization.

When the corporation officially took over operations of CHC in October 2011, it was only given a \$5-million budget compared to \$38 million received by the then Department of Public Health.

Soon after taking over CHC,

the corporation had 599 total employees at the hospital including staff at the Tinian and Rota health centers. But due to budget constraints, an emergency reduction in force was implemented.

As of records last month, the corporation has only a little over 400 personnel on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota after a significant number of employees were laid off, resigned, and retired.

From \$1.2 million monthly payroll cost, the corporation managed to reduce its personnel expenditure to about \$800,000.

Babauta was disappointed upon getting the final budget figures for FY 2013. He described the newly approved budget figure for the hospital as a clear show of non-commitment of the Legislature on the healthcare of the CNMI people.

“There was no commitment to that. We’re very disappointed and I think as a result of this, we have to resort to further reduction in force. We will reduce the overtime of personnel and we’re looking at downsizing clinic hours,” Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

For several pay periods, the CEO disclosed that the bulk of the salary paid to employees was from improved collections and revenues of the hospital.

The CEO revealed that the corporation is also looking at probably turning the Rota and Tinian health centers into outpatient clinics only while RIF will take effect again on all three islands, focusing more on non-essential services.

“We have no other choice... it’s now truly unsustainable and this hospital needs to survive,” said Babauta.

For several pay periods, the CEO disclosed that the bulk of the salary paid to employees was from improved collections and revenues of the hospital.

amend the new \$15 tourism/environmental law, and then the hotel occupancy tax law to effectuate this new proposal.

The administration believes a 5-percent hotel occupancy tax increase would collect pretty much the same amount as imposing a new \$15 fee, for a total of some \$6 million annually. The money raised will be used strictly for tourism promotion and will not go into the general fund.

The original form of this proposal to assess more tourism-related fees was a law intending to provide incentives to travel agencies that bring in more tour-

ists from Asian countries to the CNMI and charge passengers from these non-U.S. destinations a \$15 travel promotion fee.

That law was later amended imposing a \$15 fee collected from transients who pay for lodging in a room of a hotel, lodging house, motel, resort motel, apartment, apartment motel, rooming house, condominium, or similar facility in the CNMI. The fee is supposed to be assessed one time for each visit or trip to the CNMI. This will again be amended to impose a 5-percent hotel occupancy tax increase instead.

FITIAL

From Page 1

tourist destination.

But the administration-sponsored bill has yet to be pre-filed in the House of Representatives as of yesterday, lawmakers said yesterday.

“I ask that the Legislature entertain this measure expeditiously so as to revive our sole economic driver, which will in turn bring more revenues to all CNMI businesses and government services,” Fitial said in his fiscal year 2013 budget law

transmittal to House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota).

The \$114-million budget law for FY 2013 gave only a \$2 million budget to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

This was in anticipation of a repeal of Public Law 17-75, that would provide additional funding to the CNMI government’s tourism agency.

“Public Law 17-75 is expected to be repealed as it is difficult to implement after receiving significant opposition from CNMI hoteliers. As such, replacement

legislation will be introduced to increase the hotel occupancy tax by 5 percent to achieve the goals set by PL 17-75,” Fitial told lawmakers.

Back in July, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos tossed the idea of a 5-percent increase in hotel occupancy tax but at the time, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chairman Nick Nishikawa said the hoteliers hope it would only be a 3-percent increase initially and gradually increase it to 5 percent later.

Fitial’s letter to the Legislature on Sunday affirmed a 5-percent increase in hotel oc-

Tan Holdings partners with Hopwood in tree planting project

»75 flame trees planted during event which also marked Arbor Day in CNMI

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hopwood Jr. High School has taken steps to go green as it

where saplings of flame trees, the CNMI's state tree, were planted. Before the event, the Home of the Hilitais expressed their appreciation to Tan Hold-

up for those that were earlier planted but did not survive.

"We hope that this tree planting event would encourage others to partner with us so we can sponsor other schools and get them to plant more trees," added Dimaano.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
David M. Sablan, corporate consultant for Tan Holdings, is joined by 8th grader Rika Diaz of Hopwood Jr. High School in planting the first flame tree sapling during their tree-planting event at the Chalan Piao campus on Monday. Inset, Tan Holdings executives and Hopwood Jr. High School management and students pose for a group photo before the start of the event.



partnered with Tan Holdings for the company's tree planting initiative, a move that aims to raise awareness among students about the importance of trees and emphasize the need for environmental stewardship.

Fifty 8th grade students joined forces with some 40 executives of the largest private employer and taxpayer in the Commonwealth to plant 75 flame tree saplings within the Chalan Piao campus on Monday morning.

The tree planting event brings to 325 the number of flame trees planted throughout the island by Tan Holdings officials, managers, and business unit heads to mark this year the corporation's 40th anniversary of doing business in Micronesia.

The group, which targets to plant 400 trees within the year, initiated the project last March after planting 100 flame tree saplings along Beach Road across from the Morgen Building in Oleai up to Civic Center in Susupe, and another 150 on a public land in Koblerville in August.

Lina Dimaano, vice president for finance, said that it was the first time for Tan Holdings to collaborate with an educational institution for its tree planting project, which is among the company's environmental efforts that would assist in stimulating the CNMI's main economic engine, the tourism industry.

Dimaano said Hopwood Jr. High School stepped up to the plate and volunteered to be a part of Monday's event, which coincided with the observance in the Commonwealth of Arbor Day, a holiday celebrated throughout the world by encouraging the public to plant and care for trees.

"I commend the school for their desire to really protect the environment. You can really see the excitement of the students as they give back to Mother Earth by planting all these flame trees," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Eighth graders under the class of teachers Eric Palacios and Freddy Salavaria marched to the rear side of the school grounds

ings through their school cheer.

Chrystalle Lloren, 13, said it was her first time to plant a tree "and I think I'm going to start planting from now on."

"It was very fun and also very important because trees are useful," she said. "This tree planting event has taught me the importance of our environment, especially trees, and I want everyone to be involved in this kind of project."

Palacios and Salavaria separately said that having the students participate in the tree-planting initiative allows the younger generation to take ownership in these saplings, motivating them to care for the flame trees until they fully bloom.

For Salavaria, the project is a "good" and "win-win" partnership between their school and Tan Holdings which is known for its community service endeavors. "I hope other private companies and even government agencies can chip in to schools and get these kids going."

School principal Jonas Barcinas, for his part, said Monday's event was an opportunity for Hopwood Jr. High to replace the trees that have been cut down within their campus due to safety reasons.

"We want to plant these trees and landscape it properly so the campus will look safe and beautiful... Hopefully, it will grow for generations to come so that when it blossoms, then we can really see the beauty of our labor," he added.

The 75 flame tree saplings were provided by the nonprofit group Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and its executive director, Sam Sablan, received from Tan Holdings a check donation of \$375 which equates to a \$5 of donation for every sapling.

Dimaano disclosed that the final tree planting event this year will be held tentatively on Oct. 24 in the Marpi area, where at least 150 flame tree saplings would be planted or more than the number that they need to plant. She explained that the extra 75 saplings hopes to make

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Senior Vice President/General Manager (1)
Qualification: must have 10 years experience managing full service 36 hole golf course, experience in developing and marketing and coordinating marketing strategies, knowledge of business management practices of golf course operation and hotel operation, assignment and projects for the golf course, maintain and grow membership and customer by promptly handling member and guest concerns and issues, ensure open communication and high visibility to members and guest by conducting daily walk through of the club, generate revenue by acting as sales manager for the entire golf club and resort, expand sales by initiating and monitoring effectiveness of monthly promotions, demand managements and demand creation strategies.

Position: Cook Korean Cuisine (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years in the preparation of Korean food, will be involved in Korean menu development, inventory, ordering/purchasing, food cost control, training, personnel management such as coaching, complies to all applicable Sanitation Codes, ensure efficient, safe and sanitary food production, preparation, presentation and knowledgeable of Korean food trends with focus on quality, experience in large catering or banquet functions, excellent communication skills in Korean and basic English to understand and follow recipe, able to communicate on all levels, including management, departmental and customer.

Position: Chef de Partie (1)
Qualifications: 7 Years of cooking experience and training, responsible for the creation of high quality dishes, able to work independently, cooks consistently and enthusiastically on a high level, helps create and cook to perfection seasonal and including a five course modern gourmet menu, small selection of signature a la carte dishes, cooks and prepares for each meal service, controls incoming goods and stores food, vegetables, fruits, staple in a perfect conditions, guest orientated and able to converse with the clients, actively attends wine and general trainings, team building events and supplier visits to learn about local product, has fun cooking, is a sociable person, likes to work as a teamwork, and respects and actively works with colleagues.

Position: Cook (7)
Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of experience and training, prepares or directs preparation of foods according to prescribed menus and recipes, takes inventory of supplies on hand and orders food supplies, ingredients and other consumables on a schedules basis as determined by menu and estimated number of customers, cleans and sanitizes all food preparation equipment and ensures that it is kept in safe and operable condition, knowledge of methods, materials, and practices of volume food preparation, sanitary methods used in food preparation.

Position: Assistant Manager, Food & Beverage Department (1)
Qualifications: Must have 5 years of working experience and training, Must have supervisory experienced and training preferably in hotel and resort facilities, have experienced for all food and beverage services including banquet catering, bar/grill, dining restaurant, and outside beverage carts, must have cost control of all food and beverage outlets by helping in overseeing the purchasing of food, maintains effective inventory and shortage controls, work with the Executive Chef to develop an annual food and beverage plan and budget, ensure successful operation of special events, banquets, rentals, coordinates the delivery for all food and beverage service to the customer at the highest guest standard, supervise staff and operational during shift, ensure all of the services provided are immediate need of the customer, maintain and develop a dedicated team providing the highest quality of service and addresses all staffing issues in a fair and timely manner.

Position: Kitchen Helper (1)
Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience, must be familiar with the dynamics of a professional kitchen is a plus, willingness to learn, time and space management skills, physical stamina, a friendly temperament, a desire to help out where needed and the ability to foster the creation and maintenance of a cohesive team, assist cooks, keep kitchen clean, perform a variety of food preparation task, assist with food and beverage service, receive and store supplies, sweeps and mops floors, segregates and removes trash and garbage and places, hoses out garbage container, washes pots, pans, trays by hand, scrapes food from dirty dishes and washes them by hand or place them in racks.

Position: Assistant Manager, Front Office (1)
Qualifications: Must have 2 years of experienced and training in the field of hotel and golf resort operation, must be organized, neat and professional appearance, pleasant, tactful and patient, able to communicate well with a wide variety of people, committed to providing good service, enjoyed dealing with people, ability to direct and control the activities of the Front Office, Reservations, deal with customer complaints, knowledge of a second language is a plus (write, read, and speak)computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications, and superior written and oral communications skills, ability to respond properly and take a supervisory role in any hotel emergency or safety situation.

Position: Korea Sales & Marketing (1)
Qualification: 3 years of experienced and training, must have worked in a hotel or tourism industry, communicate directly with guests, both in person and by telephone, provides information on facilities to Korean speaking guest at the golf & resort, provide information and services in Korean, must be able to offer the Korean guest in any number of special circumstances, good communication skills in Korean language is vitally important, provides all the information that the guest needs to enjoy their stay, good problem solving skills, good organizational skills, must be trained and experienced in tourism or hospitality managements, excellent customer service skills.

Position: Supervisor, Japan Sales & Marketing (2)
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experienced and training in marketing strategy for the Japanese market, must be fluent in the Japanese language as well as to read and write, experienced contacting and selling to Corporate level executives, experienced in Sales and Marketing most especially in the Japan markets, built and managed a network of marketing and selling Hotel and Golf product and services, possess innovative business promotional and advertising activities, strong negotiating skills, knowledgeable of the Japanese customers needs, have strong demonstrations skills, must work with management team to create sales and marketing plans that includes to identify and target Japan Markets, identify potential Japanese clients.

Position: Supervisor Pro Shop (1)
Qualifications: Must have 3 years of supervisory experienced and training, able to lead, direct and motivate the sales team in order to achieve sales objectives, identifies appropriate business targets, provides a professional and excellent level of customer service with existing and new customers, supervises scheduled shift, completes all assigned duties, supervises sale associates, ensure that all employees adhere to company policies and procedures, knowledge of principles, techniques, and objectives of marketing, manages a sales program, knowledge of hotel management and philosophy.

Position: Sales Representative, Pro shop (1)
Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced in the field of golf operation, must maintain outstanding customer service, generating sales, merchandising, must be fully competent in selling, knowledgeable of cashiering and receipt processing, knows how to operate a computerized point of sale cash receipts, inventory management system, ensure that each customer receives, ability to work varied hours/days, including nights, weekends and holidays as needed, must recognize security risks and thefts and know how to handle or prevent such situations.

Position: Front Desk Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of hospitality work, must have total understanding of all hotel front office procedures, know standard of cash handling, knowledge of computerized cash register systems, reservation system, must have experience in dealing directly with the public and acquired general knowledge of basic customer service skills, experienced and trained in the field of Front Office Operation, assist the Front Office Staff in handling customers in an efficient, gracious and professional manner and maintains a friendly, cheerful and courteous demeanor at all times.

Position: Front Desk Clerk, China/Korea Market (1)
Qualifications: Assist the front desk clerks in handling Korean and Chinese guests in an efficient, gracious and professional manger, responsible for the management, organization of the Front Office and related functions pertaining to the Korean and Chinese guests, respond and display a high degree of professionalism and integrity as well to a wide variety of people, enjoys dealing with people, computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications and superior Korean/Chinese written, and oral communication skills.

Position: Executive Housekeeping (1)
Qualifications: 7 years experience and training is required, must have worked preferably at a hotel, responsible for the smooth, efficient, cost effective operation of the Housekeeping Department, inventory control, works closely with Front Desk Assistant Manager to resolve all room discrepancies, possesses good knowledge of all matters relating to the proper administration of the Housekeeping department, provides employee safety training to prevent accidents, maintains quality standards through inspection programs, follows and ensures compliance to all hotel control procedures by staff.

Position: Housekeeping (3)
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training cleaning hotel rooms, ensure clean, orderly attractive rooms in hotels, and must have training cleaning golf facilities, prepare a list of prospective check-outs, investigates complaints regarding housekeeping service and equipment, takes corrective action, operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials, conducts inventories to ensure adequate supplies, observe precautions required to protect hotel guests' property, and report theft or found articles to supervisors.

Position: Accountant (1)
Qualifications: 5 years work experience and knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles and procedures and budgetary principles, considerate knowledge of computers and their application in financial and accounting system, ability to prepare clear financial statement, establish tables of accounts and assign entries to proper accounts, use professional judgment, ability to plan, organize and meet rigid schedules and demanding timelines and seasonal workloads.

Position: Information Technology Technician (1)
Qualification: Must have 5 years of experienced and training and a college graduate in Computer science, responsible for installing, maintaining computer hardware, software, networks, have proficient knowledge in computer hardware and software systems and programs, computer networks, network administration and network installations, computer troubleshooting, team building skills, analytical and problem solving skills, decision making skills, effective verbal, presentation and listening communication skills, effective written communication skills, computer skills including the ability to operate graphics and website development programs at a highly proficient level, good time manage.

Position: Information Technology Assistant (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training and must be a college graduate of computer applications and operating systems, PC hardware and trouble shooting, repair procedures, principles and practices of computer and telephone support services, computer hardware and software applications, familiar with information technology policies and procedures, computer operations processing and procedures, communicate clearly and easily with user and vendors of varying levels of technical expertise.

Position: Project Engineer/Facility Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: 10 years of experienced and training, college graduate, is responsible to ensure that all LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort facilities are maintained in the highest of standards in their operation, assists in implementation and coordination of maintenance, repair, renovations of Company owned and leased facilities, monitors contractors compliance to standards for various Company buildings, conducts initial review and evaluates bids for compliance with specifications, report building maintenance needs, respond appropriately to emergencies or urgent issues as they arise, manage and supervise and coordinates the work of the staff and the work of contractors, communicate clearly and concisely, maintain adequate inventory, preventive maintenance and repairs of equipment.

Position: Supervisor, Electrician (1)
Qualifications: Have 7 years of training and experienced, and a college graduate, must have electrical trade qualifications, complies and adheres to the Occupational Safety and Health and Standards and practices, excellent communication and team building skills, must have computer systems skills, perform electrical work as required within their capabilities, maintaining a high standard of workmanship and abide by local statutes, performs skilled electrical installations, undertake modifications to plan & equipment repair electronic components of electrical equipment as required for continued operation, attend to production machinery breakdowns as required.

Position: Mechanic Engineer (1)
Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced, must have graduate degree, is responsible for all mechanical installations maintenance programs, stress analysis, piping, process plants layout and mechanical building services, responsible in power plant engines and generations, evaluates equipment performance and operating conditions, proficient in the planning and control of work in a multi project, deadline driven environment, deep and thorough understanding of applicable regulatory requirements and industry practices, assumes accountability for the quality of mechanical engineering work.

Position: HVAC Technician (1)
Qualifications: 7 years of experience and training, must have specialized knowledge to analyze and solve complex problems, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, strong physical exertion, responsibility for cost control, sustained high degree of attention required to prevent damage or waste, repair replace needs necessary to maintain equipment and systems, install heating, air conditioning, refrigeration systems and related equipment for the propose of providing comfort inside facilities, maintains tools.

Position: Building Maintenance (2)
Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience and training, must have standard maintenance skills and the ability to apply that knowledge safely in a structured environment, skill in operating maintenance and carpentry tools and equipments, activities and decisions, requires independent actions, judgment in solving common problems, must have tolerance for exposure to unpleasant elements, be able to positively interact with fellow workers, maintains and repairs a variety of building facilities and provides service for common mechanical, electrical, and building system devises.

Position: Assistant Manager, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)
Qualifications: Must have 5 years of experience and training in golf industry, Must be able to communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, inspect golf equipment, structures, or materials, work with the public, assist others, monitor events, coordinates the work and activities of others, develop and build teamwork, knowledge of a second language is a plus, knowledge of the golf sport and rules is a must, generally work a flex schedule, often deal with unpleasant, angry or discourteous customers, work in a group or as part of a team, provide directions to customers, make sure that the customers follow golf etiquette and rules.

Position: Supervisor, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)
Qualifications: Must have 5 years experienced and training and working in a golf industry, must keep things running smoothly, provide information about and the services the Company provides, keep equipment in working order, explain how to use equipment safely, provide information about rules, record details of attendance, reservations, make sure that people follow rules, communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, must be pleasant, neat in appearance, must be punctual and reliable, ability to work well with the public is very important, knowledge of the golf sport, responsible for work outcomes and results of other attendants.

Position: Supervisor, Greens keeper (1)
Qualifications: Must have 7 years of training and experienced, must have worked preferably at a hotel and golf industry, establishes and maintain and repair programs for the golf course and the hotel, evaluates and determines the need for and scope of emergency repairs and supervises staff and contractors in performing work, establishes procedures governing employee and customer's safety, perform grounds maintenance, perform preventive maintenance to the equipment, applies insecticides, herbicides and fertilizers maintains and operate irrigation system, experienced and knowledgeable in tractor operation and moving.

Position: Greens keeper (14)
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, knowledge of methods and materials used in grounds and landscaped area knowledge of and ability to use hand and power tools and equipment, ability to operate trucks, light motorized equipment, physical strength, stamina and agility, assists in the construction of new greens, tees, and fairways, lays sod, and seeds tees, greens and fairways.

Position: Nursery Workers (3)
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, performs routine maintenance on equipment, move containerized shrubs, plants, greens, using wheelbarrows, carts, shovel or tractors, maintain grounds and landscaping, haul and spread topsoil, fertilizer, peat moss and other materials to condition soil, requires to be reliable, responsible, and dependable, pleasant to work with, displays good natured and cooperative attitude.

Position: Fabricator & Assembler (1)
Qualifications: Must have 10 years of training and experience, must be able to fabricates, assembles, installs, and repairs sheet metal products and equipment on the basis of knowledge of system operation, may work with aluminum, galvanized steel, stainless steel, or other sheet metal stock, frequent to constant standing, walking throughout shift on all types of surfaces, maintains a safe work environment must be able to plan, organize, must be able to read and understand technical information, manuals, material safety data sheets, work order.

Position: Heavy Equipment Machinist (1)
Qualifications: must have 5 years of training and experience, performs skilled tasks in the mechanical repair and maintenance of heavy trucks, earth moving, and related construction equipment including road graders, knowledge of hazards and safety precautions of the trade, operation and maintenance requirements of heavy duty construction equipment, work cooperatively with other employees, work safely without presenting a direct threat to self or others, performs incidental welding operations on equipment.

Position: Golf Cart Mechanic (2)
Qualification: high school diploma, 3 years technical training or experienced in mechanical, dismantle engines, using hand tools and examine parts for defects, test and inspect engines to determine malfunctions, to locate missing and broken parts, perform routine maintenance such as cleaning and oiling parts, honing cylinders and tuning ignition system, ability to demonstrate good judgment when dealing with guests or other personnel, able to lift/carry supplies or equipment with frequent reaching, stooping, bending, and kneeling, extensive walking and standing.

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NMC urged to focus on short-term courses, strong liberal arts program

»»Summit bares hindrances to college mission success

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Leaders and representatives from the private and public sectors took part in yesterday’s historic Northern Marianas College Strategic Planning Summit held at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Facilitated by Dennis Jones from the National Center for Higher Education Management System, the five-hour event centered on NMC’s role in the future of the Com-

monwealth, how its desired progress became elusive, and potential approaches that would bring “change” to the community college.

In his presentation, Jones identified areas

and aspects that continue to pose as a challenge to the only institution of higher education on island. Among these challenges is the need to educate U.S. citizens to fill jobs being vacated by foreign workers and providing trainings for high skilled jobs in utilities and management positions in healthcare. NMC is also being challenged to increase the overall education attainment levels of the workforce as well as create private sector jobs.

Among the opportunities it needs to develop, according to the expert, is in business, especially small business and entrepreneurship courses. It has also great potential in agriculture and aquaculture along with the healthcare needs. NMC, it was revealed, must also develop the workforce in computer applications, mechanics, and customer service.

According to Jones, the CNMI can’t rely on changes in the “exemption policy” to save itself at this point, alluding to the proposed five-year extension of nonresidents’ stay in the Commonwealth. He said the CNMI and all its stakeholders have to think much more seriously about how it wants to educate its children.

Despite commentaries which mostly tackled the “mistakes” committed in the past, Jones described yesterday’s event as a good conversation among stakeholders.

“I think they recognized the set of issues. But the real question here today is: what does NMC do in CNMI?”

Jones is expecting that after the summit, “CNMI folks will begin talking, get some sense of how they see reality, and set a stage for a conversation within the college.”

During Jones’ presentation, he highlighted data he described

needs the CNMI’s attention to better its only community college. “Gaps” were presented in issues such as minimum wage, education attainment of the population, unemployment rate, percentage of students from public schools, the enrollment trend at NMC, and many others.

Strong liberal arts program

For former NMC Board of Regents and now Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta, “debates” seem ongoing on what the real mission of the college is. But he strongly believes that “the college’s mission is to

provide a strong liberal arts program on fundamentals—reading, writing, math, and science—for students to become analytical and rationale thinkers.”

Board of Education member Galvin De-

leon Guerrero, meantime, said that NMC must be wary of pursuing an educational agenda that is purely pragmatic, specialized, and utilitarian. “I do believe that there’s a very great need of short-term certificate programs [at NMC].”

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D, said data received yesterday from the expert would be helpful in the Public School System’s efforts in establishing partnerships and collaborations with the private and public sectors.

She assured yesterday that PSS, along with the Board of Education, can help the CNMI address the issue by probably implementing some changes in the junior and high school levels where it can introduce career technology education academy for the early preparation of students to college and career after high school.

Sablan, however, pointed out that there are also factors that are beyond PSS’ control such as the kind of nurturing and guidance received by students from their parents.

Department of Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, meanwhile, said it is important for parents to give their children some “vision” for them to grow, by emphasizing the importance of seeking a college education whatever family or economic background they may have. He described the “culture as so close-knit” that “discourages” many children from going off to college.

Meantime, David Sablan Jr. of Tan Holdings, emphasized the need to encourage students to go to college at NMC to prevent a brain drain on the island. He cited the case of numerous government scholars who seek education abroad but are not returning to work and help the CNMI.



Jones

Northern Islands residents safe from tropical storm

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The seven residents of Pagan and Alamagan in the Northern Islands are safe and secure even as Tropical Storm Maliksi intensified in the last two days.

Francisco L. Kaipat, community worker at the Northern Islands Mayor's Office, said yesterday that they communicated with the residents of both islands via radio frequency yesterday and last Monday.

Of the seven residents, five stay on Pagan while the other two live on Alamagan, he said.

Kaipat said they get in touch with these residents through

their weekly scheduled radio conference every Monday and Thursday.

During days when there is a weather disturbance, however, Kaipat disclosed that they contact the Northern Islands population more frequently to check on their safety.

Kaipat noted, though, that the residents experience a hard time communicating via radio since the gadget uses batteries that are charged using solar panels.

"If there's no sun, they can't charge the battery," he added.

Kaipat said they made contact with the Northern Islands residents on Monday to inform them about the latest weather

Tropical Storm Maliksi moves away from Northern Islands

Tropical Storm Maliksi (20W) continued moving away from the Marianas region yesterday and the tropical storm warning has been cancelled for Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan islands.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service in

Guam, damaging winds are no longer expected in the Northern Island, but inter-island travel should be postponed until seas subside.

As of 1pm yesterday, the center of Tropical Storm Maliksi was located 220 miles west-northwest of Agrihan,

250 miles northwest of Pagan, 275 miles northwest of Alamagan, 415 miles north-northwest of Saipan, and 495 miles north of Guam.

Packing maximum winds at 45 miles per hour, Maliksi is moving toward the northwest at 15 mph.

Showers and isolated thunderstorms brought by Maliksi produced heavy downpours yesterday morning until last night.

NWS warned that rip currents will be very strong and life threatening. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

bulletin from the Emergency Management Office.

Based on their latest communication with these residents, they were already experiencing strong winds and high surf due to Tropical Storm Maliksi, he said.

But Kaipat assured that all the residents are out of harm's way. "They're pretty much se-

cured because they prepared themselves [on Monday] when we contacted them that there's a disturbance."

He said the Pagan residents have a lot of Japanese bunkers they can use as shelter while those from Alamagan also have their own semi-concrete shelter built by former mayors.

"During this administration,

we have plans of making better and tougher typhoon shelters for the Northern Islands residents," said Kaipat.

He stressed that the residents have enough supplies to last them in this kind of weather disturbance.

Kaipat said these residents already are informed that they can contact the Northern Islands

Mayors Office should there be any changes in weather activities in the two islands.

Since their office only operates from Monday to Friday, Kaipat said the residents usually get in touch with the EMO to receive the latest weather bulletin during weekends.

"We hope the people up there are safe," he added.

AS FITIAL SIGNS FY'13 BUDGET BILL

Saipan mayor laments funding cut

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Mayor Donald G. Flores lamented the 6-percent funding cut for the Saipan Mayor's Office this fiscal year 2013, criticizing the Legislature's budget conference committee for its "unfair" allocation for the biggest island in the Commonwealth.

Flores said in an interview Monday that the approved \$1.165-million budget for the Saipan Mayor's Office is about \$70,000 short of



Flores

adding that the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation failed to fight for the Saipan municipality.

With the budget cutback, Flores said the Legislature placed the Saipan Mayor's Office in a "shortfall" in FY2013 which would certainly affect the delivery of services to the community, including secondary road repairs, picking up dead animals on the road, and the assistance they provide to lawmakers in village projects for their respective constituents.

"We're trying to improve our island but by not giving us the budget, we won't be able to give the services they need. It's as simple as that," he said.

The mayor said he hopes "to get to the bottom of this" by writing a letter to the Legislature and possibly meeting with them to find out why they had to cut down the budget for the Saipan Mayor's Office but increase funding for other offices.

"We have to be mindful how we're going to survive and not incur any deficit," he added.

His special adviser, Henry Hofschneider, thanked the governor for seeing the need to give the Saipan Mayor's Office the additional \$70,000 as reflected in his budget proposal revision.

Man, 36, arrested for sexual abuse of a minor girl

Police arrested on Saturday a 36-year-old man who allegedly touched the private parts of a minor girl on several occasions.

Police said the sexual abuse was revealed after a school staff noticed the victim having a red mark believed to be a hickey.

Carlos Ketebebang was taken to the Superior Court Monday for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, disturbing the peace, and assault and battery.

Associate Judge Joseph N.

Camacho imposed a \$25,000 cash bail for the defendant's temporary release.

Police Officer Josef P. Deleon Guerrero stated in his report that police conducted an investigation after a school principal reported the sexual abuse incident on Friday.

The girl then confessed to the police that Ketebebang touched her private parts on six separate occasions in August and September 2012. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Rotary to train anew MHS students in JA program

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the second consecutive school year, the Rotary Club of Saipan will be training Marianas High School students who are part of the Junior Achievement Company Program.

Rotarian Reina Camacho said yesterday that the Rotary Club of Saipan once again agreed to take part in the after-school program that educates high school students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy.

The JA program in the CNMI took on a hiatus for several years before it was re-established in 2011 by the Public School System and the Commonwealth Development Authority, with the support of the Northern Marianas College.

"We have been assigned the Marianas High School to mentor," Camacho told Rotarians during their membership meeting. "We're going to offer our mentorship, skills, knowledge, and our time to the MHS JA program."

Camacho said that through

the program, Rotarians can teach students how to build and establish their own business as well as develop and sell their own product.

The Rotary Club of Saipan, which is comprised of members from various fields and companies, sponsored one of the participating teams in last year's JA program, MHS' Team Bendi.

The team is made up of six officials and 16 employees who came up with the "Be A Hero" wristbands and "Respect" thumb rings at the JA Trade Fair held at the Garapan Street Mar-

ket last March 29. The group reached \$1,300 in sales and donated the proceeds to the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence.

Camacho said that this year's MHS JA club will kick off the 12-week program at 3:10pm today at MHS Room C102.

"This is a new school year, a new group of students, a new company," she added.

Camacho urged her fellow Rotarians to volunteer one to two hours of their time to the JA program to offer guidance and mentorship for the MHS students.

DEQ Cleanup Brigade at Hidden Beach this Saturday

The Division of Environmental Quality Cleanup Brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Hidden Beach this Saturday, Oct. 6, starting 8am.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, please meet the DEQ representatives on Saturday at the end of the

paved road leading to Kingfisher Golf Links.

Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap

and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade T-shirt.

Last month's International Coastal Cleanup was successful with over 900 volunteers participating. Thanks to all the volunteers over 4,000 lbs of trash was removed from the beaches and roadsides and

properly disposed off.

The DEQ is looking forward to a repeat success this Saturday, so join DEQ's monthly cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. (PR)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

TWPI holding auditions for 'Working'

Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands is pleased to announce auditions for the fall chapter play "Working" from the book by Studs Terkel and adapted for the stage by Stephen Schwartz and Nina Faso.

Audition are open to all high

school thespians in public and private schools. Even though this is a musical, there are singing and non-singing parts in "Working."

TWPI is also looking for student directors and choreographers.

The group is inviting those interested in becoming student di-

rectors to come on Monday, Oct. 1, or Tuesday, Oct. 2, to pick up materials after 4pm at the MHS Dolphin Theatre. All auditions and interviews will be held in the MHS Dolphin Theatre.

Director auditions/interviews will be held today, Oct. 3, 5pm.

Those who wish to audition for non-singing parts

may audition on Thursday, Oct. 4, 4pm. Auditions for singer/actors will be held on Friday, Oct. 5.

The audition for student choreographer will be on Sunday, Oct. 7, 1pm. (PR)

MHS to distribute 1Q mid-progress report tomorrow

Marianas High School will be distributing its mid-progress report to parents/guardians tomorrow, Oct. 4, from 4pm to 6pm. Students will be dismissed at 1pm. Should you have any questions, call the school at 237-3203/5. (PR)

FOA announces show times for *Deathtrap*

In *Deathtrap*, the savoir faire is everywhere! The Friends of the Arts is pleased to announce its next theatrical presentation, the Broadway success *Deathtrap*, scheduled for this Oct. 19, 20, and 21.

Written by Ira Levin, *Deathtrap* holds the record as the longest-running comedy-thriller on Broadway. The FOA production of this two-act play will be directed by Harold Easton. If you loved the cast and story of *Sleuth*, you will love *Deathtrap*.

Tickets are now available for purchase through any of the FOA board and members. Tickets for this show are \$15 for non-FOA members, \$12 for members and \$8 for children (11-5 years old). Want to become a member? Please call Frank L. Gibson, the managing producer, at 287-7476 or email him at flgibson@yahoo.com. Membership fees are \$25 per family or \$20 for an individual. Season tickets for adults are \$40 and \$25 for children 11 to 5 years old. Children under 4 are free! (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 3, 2001

'Crisis justifies increased lobby efforts'

Despite valiant efforts by the opposition, House leaders pulled off the passage of a resolution supporting the Governor if he decides to retain the services of the Washington D.C.-based lobbying group, at least until December this year. Voting 11-5-1, majority of House lawmakers supported House Resolution 12-179, expressing the lower chamber's support to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in securing the continued services of Greenberg Traurig as the CNMI's lobbyist at the US Congress "during this critical time." Those who opposed were Reps. Diego T. Benavente, Heinz S. Hofschneider, Jesus T. Attao, Estanislao T. Torres and Thomas B. Pangelinan.

Reform Party touts scholarship program

The Reform Party's gubernatorial tandem yesterday vowed to restore the scholarship funding level that has excluded non-full-time students from receiving financial assistance over the last two years. Former Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Dave C. Sablan, 2001 gubernatorial hopefuls, made the promise during the first round of NMC's first gubernatorial fora series yesterday. Working students, particularly those with families to raise, have long expressed concerns that the termination of financial aid for part-time students has put them in a very difficult position.

Oct. 3, 2002

CPA's financial vigilance pressed

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is drawing near to implementing painful cuts in operational costs, unless the agency sees improvement in its level of revenue, which is tied with the rally of the local economy. CPA Board Financial Affairs Committee Chair Ray Cing, in a report submitted to the Board, said that the CPA should be extra careful about its financial situation, especially with the declining ports-related activities. Cing, in his committee report, said the ports authority "cannot afford to be extravagant and wasteful at this time." This, as the committee also presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2003 airport operations budget amounting to \$11.3 million-\$9.8 million for the total operating expenses and \$1.5 million for debt service payment.

P&S denies CHC bidder's protest

The CNMI Procurement and Supply has denied the protest of a U.S.-based staffing agency in connection with its bid to supply the Commonwealth Health Center with nurses and laboratory personnel. In a decision released yesterday, P&S Director Herman S. Sablan, said the company, New Jersey-based Global Access Staffing Services, "is a local bidder" so it is not entitled to a seven-day deadline allowance given to offshore entities. "We have determined that Global Access Staffing Services (Saipan), Inc. (Global), is a local bidder, and as such, cannot simultaneously claim that it is also a bidder outside the CNMI for purposes of being allowed seven days additional working days for a receipt of its proposal beyond the due date set...Accordingly, we have denied your protest in its entirety," Sablan said.

Oct. 3, 2003

Senatorial bets trade barbs in NMC forum

Two senatorial candidates took their argument outside the Northern Marianas College forum after exchanging heated words during and after the NMC Associated Students-sponsored question-and-answer discussion yesterday morning. NMC officials disclosed that senatorial contenders Andrew Salas of the Republican Party and Luis P. Crisostimo of Democratic Party-engaged in an altercation during and after the open forum, which was attended by candidates for the House of Representatives in District 4 and senatorial candidates. The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the Saipan Tribune that the heated argument began during the closing statement of Salas.

House panel looks into other options

Faced with a request for the Legislature to reconsider the \$213.95-million fiscal year 2004 budget, the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee said yesterday he is open to other recommendations on how to augment the proposed funding level without aggravating current economic realities. Gov. Juan N. Babauta had proposed a \$228-million spending plan, some \$15 million of which would come from revenue enhancements contained in the Integrated Fiscal Plan submitted to the Legislature in February. The Legislature had rejected the IFP but on Wednesday, Babauta asked the Legislature to reconsider the IFP. Although he stood pat on the IFP's rejection, chairman Stanley T. Torres said his committee is willing to consider other options.



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MVA joins JATA World Travel Fair 2012

The Marianas Visitors Authority reached out to over 125,000 travel trade representatives, media representatives, and potential visitors last week at Asia's largest annual travel show, the Japan Association of Travel Agents World Travel Fair 2012.

Japan is the Northern Mariana Islands' largest source country, and JATA is that country's national organization of travel agents and suppliers promoting the travel and tourism industry.

The fair was held Sept 21-23, 2012 at the Tokyo Big Sight convention center.

"Although the number of visitors decreased on Sunday due to heavy rain, the total number of visitors was still 7 percent greater than last year," said MVA Marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "In all, the MVA's outreach to tourism professionals and potential visitors was a resounding success."

In addition to distributing destination information and answering questions at the Northern Marianas booth, the Northern Mariana Islands delegation attended a reception at the U.S. Embassy, participated at an MOU signing between the USA



From left, Saipan Travel Girl 2010 Rieko Ayumi, Miss Saipan 2011 Mai Yukawa, and Miss Saipan 2012 Misato Shimizu hold a talk show to promote Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at the Japan Association of Travel Agents World Travel Fair 2012 on Sept. 22, 2012, in Tokyo. The Marianas Visitors Authority and its travel partners operated an exhibit booth at the event.

and Japan, conducted an interview with Tabihaku TV and featured a talk show with the destination's Saipan Travel Girl 2010 Rieko Ayumi, Miss Saipan 2011 Mai Yukawa, and Miss Saipan 2012 Misato Shimizu.

The MVA also offered demonstrations of Carolinian beadwork, the art form of banana painting, crafting with coconut palm fronds, and a magic show

by SandCastle Saipan. A paper-scissors-rock children's contest with the destination mascot Saipan-da! was held, and winners received a Saipan-da! backpack.

"We saw long lines of waiting visitors around our booth," said Bateman. "The audience was excited about the magic show and, as always, the children and adults were excited with the

backpacks they received."

Visitors to the booth also walked away with temporary tattoos and other branded souvenirs as a reminder of the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota destination.

The fair featured 1,083 exhibition booths with companies and organizations from 156 countries and regions participating. Private partners also participating with the MVA

were Pacific Development, Inc., Japan Saipan Travel Association, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Kanoa Resort, and Saipan World Resort.

This year, the MVA participated in activities of Brand USA, the public-private partnership promoting travel to U.S. destinations, including the Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. **(MVA)**

MTEC elects new board members

The Marianas Tourism Education Council held its annual general membership meeting on Sept. 20, 2012, electing two new members to the board of directors and receiving good news about funding for this year's youth tourism summit.

Naomi Nishimura of the Public School System and Esther Sound of Delta Air Lines were unanimously elected to the board of directors. Chris Lubi of Ernst & Young was also officially sanctioned as MTEC treasurer, replacing Nhing Reyes.

"I thank the members of the board for their trust and confi-

dence and I am looking forward to work with the council and contribute in whichever way I can, operationally and administratively, in its efforts to engage our students and the community in promoting tourism awareness in the CNMI," said Lubi.

MTEC is gearing up for its next round of educational presentations at Northern Marianas public and private schools this school year, as well as the next MTEC Tourism Summit for MY WAVE (Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Clubs in October 2012. This year's summit will be funded by the Mari-

anas Visitors Authority through a federal grant from the Office of Insular Affairs.

"OIA recently funded four visitor industry related programs largely aimed at increasing public awareness of the workings and significance of the industry, and getting the community more actively involved in supporting the industry," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "MTEC is doing a phenomenal job at engaging our students with tourism education. The MVA is very pleased to partner with them on this year's summit, and we thank the office of Congress-

man Gregorio Kilili for helping us secure this grant to do so."

"Our focus is to continue to organize MY WAVE Clubs through the educational outreach program," said MTEC president Vicky Benavente. "We welcome private businesses, government offices, and members of the community to join MTEC's initiatives."

The council is a non-profit organization aimed at educating the public on the importance of the tourism industry. To sign up for MTEC membership, please contact MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or 664-3210. Other individuals in

attendance at the meeting were Alex Sablan of Tan Holdings Corp.; Daniel Quitugua; Larry Lee of Northern Marianas College; MY Wave Club advisors Jenn Castro of Hopwood Jr. High School, Marylou Dejillas of San Antonio Elementary School, and Monica Pangelinan of Willim S. Reyes Elementary School; James Nelson of Docomo Pacific; Bobbi Iglesias of Marianas CableVision; and representatives of the MVA.

Chris Lubi of Ernst & Young was endorsed as treasurer of the Marianas Tourism Education Council during their annual general membership meeting on Sept. 20, 2012. **(PR)**

IT&E donates \$10K to American Red Cross Club 200

IT&E, the Marianas communications leader, renewed its partnership with the American Red Cross with a \$10,000 donation in cash and prizes for the upcoming Club 200.

Club 200 is one of Saipan's premier community events and serves as the largest single fundraising event for the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross. IT&E Sales & Marketing manager Hans Mickelson said that IT&E has steadfastly supported the event since its inception and will continue to do so.

"The Red Cross plays a big role and it is an important member of the Saipan community. They do so many good things for people throughout the CNMI and offer a helping hand in times of despair, fires and natural calamities," said Mickelson.

In addition to providing support, shelter and sustenance to those in need, Mickelson cred-



IT&E Sales & Marketing manager Hans Mickelson, second from right, and American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh hold a giant check representing IT&E's \$10,000 donation to ARC's Club 200 event. Also in photo are IT&E's Brad Ruszala, left, and Norman Del Rosario.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ited the ARC with hosting the biggest and best party of the year with over \$15,000 in cash and thousands of dollars worth of other prizes during Club 200.

"They are truly a 'first-class' charitable organization and IT&E is proud to be a sponsor of the event once again," Mickelson said.

Executive director of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter, John Hirsh, thanked IT&E for its continued commitment to the Club 200 an to the community as a whole.

"IT&E has a longstanding tradition of supporting our organization and the Commonwealth. We're proud to have IT&E's continued support for our fundraising efforts with this weekend's Club 200," said Hirsh.

This year's Club 200, dubbed "Way Out West" takes place this Saturday, Oct. 6, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa from 5pm to 10pm. Tickets are \$100 and may be purchased at various outlets across Saipan or by calling the American Red Cross at 234-3459. **(PR)**

TSL Foundation announces scholarship for NMC students

In its ongoing efforts to promote higher education among CNMI students, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has announced that it is providing scholarships to 10 students of the Northern Marianas College.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation Scholarship program will provide \$1,000 per scholarship recipient that can be applied for the 2012-2013 school year (Fall, Spring, or Summer semesters).

The scholarships will be awarded to five full-time students pursuing an associate's degree in Hospitality Management, and five full-time students pursuing other degrees at NMC. In addition to hospitality management, the college offers degrees in business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and education.

"We are extremely grateful to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for their generosity and continued support of the Northern Marianas College," said NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D. "This scholarship program will help our students accomplish their educational goals and pursue rewarding careers in hospitality management and other industries."

The Tan Holdings' foundation was formed in 2002 and was renamed after the company's founder and chairman, Dr. Tan Siu Lin. Through the years, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has launched initiatives and built trusted partnerships with a diverse array of individuals, families, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. The main mission of the organization is to better serve the regions in which they operate thus making the communities a better place to live.

"Higher education doesn't only benefit the individual with the degree or experience; our community also benefits from having a greater number of skilled and knowledgeable individuals in our workforce," said Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan. "This scholarship program aims to provide more students with more opportunities to reach their goals."

The scholarships are based on merit and will be awarded to the recipient on the basis of the candidate's financial need, community involvement, academic background, and letters of recommendation. The essay and interview will also play a key role in the final selection of scholarship recipients.

The deadline for submitting applications for the Tan Siu Lin Foundation Scholarship is Monday, Oct. 15, 2012. Applications and additional information will be available for download at www.nmcnet.edu, or by contacting the NMC Financial Aid Office at 234-5498 ext. 1526. **(PR)**

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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EDITORIAL

Curb biomedical experiments on our closest relatives

Chimpanzees are the closest living relatives to human beings, a distinction that has not necessarily been a blessing to them. Because of their strong genetic resemblance to people, chimps have been used extensively in biomedical research on human diseases. It's been helpful to humans—and harmful to these primates, who often pay with their health or their lives.

There is good news for them, though. Last year, the National Institutes of Health announced it would suspend new funds for research on chimpanzees and established strict new conditions for such studies. In September, it said it would retire 110 of the chimps it has used for research.

The decision, said director Francis Collins, was “based on the way science has evolved and our great sensitivity to the special nature of these remarkable animals.” Imagine that: Being closely related to humans finally paid off.

The NIH decisions came in response to a 2011 report by the federal Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, which concluded that “most current use of chimpanzees for biomedical research is unnecessary.”

Said Jeffrey Kahn, who headed the investigation, “The committee concluded that research using animals that are so closely related to humans should not proceed unless it offers insights not possible with other animal models and unless it is of sufficient scientific or health value to offset the moral costs. We found very few cases that satisfy these criteria.”

Even Congress is taking notice. A House bill offered by Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md., to phase out invasive experiments on great apes has attracted 174 co-sponsors from both parties, and a Senate counterpart was recently approved by the Environment and Public Works Committee. The legislation may have trouble gaining priority in the post-election lame-duck session, but in that case, it will assuredly be back next year.

The shift has generated opposition from such groups as the National Association for Biomedical Research and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, which point out that such research has yielded such advances as hepatitis A and B vaccines and that the new restrictions could prevent experiments on lethal new diseases.

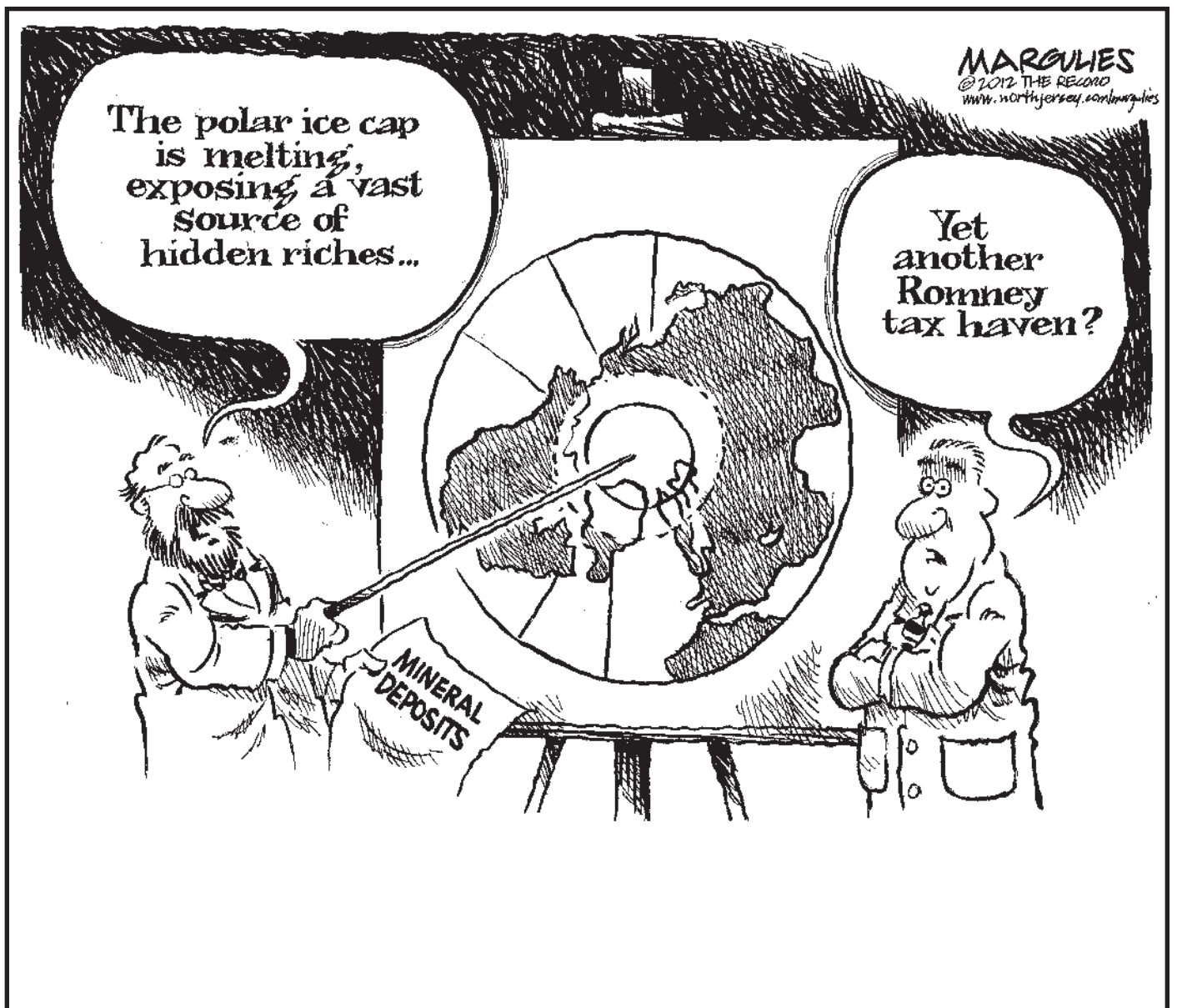
The legislation would not forbid all such research—merely impose tight requirements for it. But the experimental biology group says the new hurdles would be “unworkable at best and life threatening at worst.”

Expert criticism like that should not be ignored. If proponents of chimpanzee experimentation can offer a sensible alternative that permits research only where it is truly vital, Congress should be open to their suggestions.

But the basic goal of eliminating most experiments on these intelligent creatures is a sound one. The rest of humanity has already recognized as much. “The United States is the only country in the world to continue invasive research on chimpanzees,” reports the Humane Society of the United States. Polls indicate most Americans favor a ban.

It's not too much to ask that the government put a stop to invasive experiments on chimpanzees except when they are absolutely necessary. In fact, it's the least we can do for a cousin.

(c)2012 Chicago Tribune



Battleground Ohio is so vital, it's even drawing global tour groups

In recent months I've taken groups of internationally curious people to crisis spots as far flung as North Korea, Bosnia and Greece. The aim of these trips is to give people direct access to some of the hottest spots on the globe today. At the end of this month, we'll fly to Ohio.

Ohio may seem like the odd one out on any list of crisis spots. However, most tour participants come from outside the United States and the Buckeye State is an obvious choice for outsiders who want a front-row seat on the American presidential election. After all, it is the bellwether state that has backed the presidential winner every election since 1964.

In the last week running up to the vote we will meet with farmers, church groups, unions and autoworkers across Ohio, trying to understand their concerns and motivations. The state's complex demography—Rust Belt and rural, white and black, labor and business—provides far better insight into what's motivating American voters than Washington ever could.

We foreigners care about your elections for the obvious reason that you have a large say in how the world is run. Indeed, some of us would gladly cast a vote in America, if we could.

A recent poll suggested most Europeans would pick Obama. It is certainly true to say, I think, that there is a natural bias in favor of the incumbent.

We see him flying around the world looking presidential and we do not have to consider the finer details of “Obamacare” or high unemployment. In much the same way, Americans admired Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair long after their sell-by date in Britain.

Ohio's appeal goes well beyond the question of which candidate will win the White House.

For me the bigger question in U.S. politics at the moment is to try and understand the enormous partisan divide that has emerged in American politics. It is a shocking spectacle to see the hostility of politicians toward one another in Congress, the lack of cooperation on legislation that has brought the world's superpower close to default on its enormous debt.

And that observation comes from a country that is home to prime minister's question time in the House of Commons, which can be more raucous than any congressional debate. It is as though America is tearing itself apart ideologically, oblivious to the world outside.

Ohio, it seems, has surprises up its sleeve and may challenge my

By **NICHOLAS WOOD**
MCT

Nicholas Wood is a former reporter with the New York Times and director of Political Tours, a tour company that specializes in trips to global crisis spots.



notion of the great partisan divide.

Trailing by as much as 10 points in the Ohio polls, Mitt Romney is being accused of throwing away an election that, with the aid of an abysmal economy, should be his.

It seems Obama's lead is so significant that some Ohio commentators suggest that the problem is not entirely due to Romney's character or handling of the election. They point to a more worrying trend for the GOP.

Commentators such as Jack Torry at the Columbus Dispatch suggest the Republicans' political strategy of appealing to their tea party electoral base is alienating voters.

This was borne out in Ohio last November when voters emphatically rejected newly elected Republican Gov. John Kasich's proposals to restrict collective bargaining rights for Ohio's government workers.

“Could it be that the Republicans have become too conservative for the majority of Americans?” Torry wrote recently.

Various columnists have suggested that Americans of a classical conservative bent would prefer a party that promotes harmony among the states, businesses and individuals, but also limits government's role as much as possible.

Dare I say it? Maybe they would prefer a more European brand of conservatism. As an outsider that seems more appealing and familiar to me than the fractious drive of tea party-propelled politics.

But I don't know if that's true for American voters and neither do any of the others on our tour of Ohio. Perhaps America is not as divided as we outsiders perceive. We want to find out for ourselves.

And, as October comes to end, we will—in a proud and diverse Mideast state that already has produced seven presidents and could well decide who the 45th one will be.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Presidential Debates

They are not constitutionally mandated but they have become a regular item in the presidential election circuit.

This year (announced last year by the Commission on Presidential Debates), there are four scheduled debates, three for the presidential candidates, incumbent President Dem Barack Obama and former Massachusetts' Governor GOP Mitt Romney, and one for their Veeps, incumbent Joe Biden and Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan.

The first, scheduled tomorrow (Wednesday evening in the US, morning of the 4th in the Marianas), will focus on domestic policy. It will be held at the University of Denver in Colorado with Jim Lehrer as moderator.

On Oct. 11, the Veeps deal with domestic and foreign policies at the campus of Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. Martha Raddatz will moderate.

The second presidential talkfest on Oct. 16 will be a Q & A town-meeting format (Q from the audience, A from the candidates) at Hofstra University in New York. Candy Crowley is moderator.

The third Oct. 22 debate will be on foreign policy at the Lynn University in Florida. Bob Schieffer will moderate.

Since Nixon debated JFK in 1960, the first televised encounter of candidates has been fodder for Monday morning quarterbacking of pundits. That the ritual was not picked up again until 1976 between President Ford and aspiring Jimmy Carter is very telling of the American spirit at the height of the Civil Rights and War on Vietnam eras.

The Obama-Romney debate may not attract much of an audience. The convinced no longer need further convincing, and the undecided are getting fewer as the polls are making it clear which direction the States are leaning to.

The foreign policy aspect will have similar fundamental stance from the candidates, which is, that the United States will remain the dominant military presence. It is the main global oil economy

investor, and the most sought after for technological advances and cultural diversity in the world. The difference will be on emphasis.

The two poles that help define emphasis are law and order, and justice and welfare. Romney finds "law and order" a sine qua non of the other two, usually delivered with a high dosage of fear and bravura. Obama, at least, in rhetoric, will say that the structures of justice and the practices of comprehensive social services are what bring real law and order into the realm.

The candidates are but mouthpieces on this one. The military budget of the United States is higher than all of the rest of the world combined. Foreign policy is articulated by the State Department at the bequest of the Pentagon and Eisenhower's identified "military-industrial complex." For what? To defend the 150-year-old U.S. fossil fuel-based economy where most of the resources are buried under the sands of other people's sovereign domain. U.S. military presence in the Marianas is predicated on the containment of forces that does not toe this line, particularly access to South China Sea oil.

Domestic issues will revolve around the financial institutions set to support the fossil fuel-based economy. The phantom wealth of America's 1 percent is not really phantom as it yields considerable power in politics and in determining purchasing value, that is, as long as the mighty dollar remains the medium of global exchange and America can print money at will, with the rest of the world adjusting their currencies accordingly.

The Occupy Wall Street movement points out the illusory nature of this arrangement as the return on investment, or a perpetual growth economy as a basis for projecting future value, is untenable. Valuation has been mathematically figured rather than realistically assessed with the state of the planet and the welfare of people around the world in serious consideration.

Again, Romney will defend not only the investing rich but also the whole system of investments itself. Obama will use rhetoric on

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



the virtue of planetary health, and a defense of the integrity of the American worker whose value has been outsourced at a cheaper rate elsewhere. The fundamentals will not differ save Romney will be more honest in his exclusivity. Obama will talk-the-talk that we know has not been followed by walking-the-walk.

But we want to be entertained. In media terminology, this is referred to as the gridiron defense of the American Empire. The whipped Mama will be ascendant China, and for good reason. Shanxi in China 24/7 trucks loads of coal to the electric plants scattered across the grasslands of Inner Mongolia that we saw (at least, the northeastern part) this summer in our foray to Manzhouli and environs, to fuel its electricity requirement to maintain its manufacturing capability that sustain its commercial face around the world.

Romney is trailing badly in the polls. The *New Yorker* comic Borowitz has had a heyday ridiculing the former Massachusetts governor's numerous gaffes in his pronouncements. This will not abate with the rich lodes from the forthcoming debates.

It does not matter. The election of an African American President four years ago has been a progressive symbol of America's march into the future. America's rich WASPs have gone into defense. We sit across the aisle. Obama, I think, will prevail.

Look and look closely

Afamous baseball player once said, "You can see a lot just by looking." Simple wisdom most politicians prefer ignoring. But if they really want to see then they'd have to want to see the truth that's actually out there. Reality is far different from what you imagine it to be.

This seems the case last week when legislators piece meal the hospital with meager funds to deal with serious Immediate Jeopardy (IJ) issues. It overlooked the fact that unless CHC shows it has the direly needed funds to make amends, it stands to lose millions of dollars in Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements totaling some \$14 million.

The Legislature feels it has done its job placing the accrual of funds for CHC to trickle in over the next several months from various sources. It fails to see what happens if CHC can't show it has money to work with today!

In planning you ask yourself "what if." Yes, "what if" the feds cut the single largest reimbursement for CHC? This instantly translates to about 20,000 Medicaid and Medicare recipients who would not be able to seek medical attention at the only hospital here.

Understandably, the fiscal calamity suffocating the archipelago today hails from a mixture of human decisions, economic circumstance, and the cumulative effect of time. But on such critical livelihood issues like health, how could legislators lose its sense of priority and urgency? Need there be patient deaths in the hundreds to bring them to their senses?

Interesting though that the more we look the clearer it gets that politicians are leading lives of privilege and elitism compared to the peasants (taxpayers like you and I) that finance their pampered existence.

Is there hope ahead?

Nobody's immune to job losses, loss of the first family home, rising cost of utilities, spikes at the pumps, new health fees, basic commodities, higher healthcare premiums, or falling incomes.

The persistent descend of hardship continues to take its wild spiral, specifically, its toll against households all over the archipelago. It's dizzying no matter how you splice or dice it.

The deafening silence of NMI leadership on the hill on these issues is appalling. Is it wary of the adverse hardship afflicting village folks because of its inactions and indecisions?

Let's return to basics and focus on queries each must answer realistically forthwith. Your silence doesn't grant any of us the opportu-

nity to engage in meaningful discussions on proposals that may be under your sleeves. Specifically, what plans do you have to improve the consistently deepening listless economy?

If in fact you have a proposal, is it affordable, sustainable and whose job is it to push it through the maze of the bureaucratic process? Could you take it through to completion? Or would you fall prey to the usual political gamesmanship?

In other words, please level with us, tell us what you truly think, not just go down the familiar list of talking points, giving us the usual collection of platitudes and hoping to be all things to all people. Don't make promises you can't deliver or torture the truth or lie. We've grown thick skin on this score but it has gotten too thick with lies from, yes, politicians! *No Mas!* We're talking to both incumbents and new aspirants.

Obviously, there's a reason why we would like you to level with the voters: There's hardly any trust left with government. The term "trust" has gone fishing too. In other words, I can understand how recent events may have derailed your usually clear prism. But is your woeful inaction the harbinger of the near and long-term and the celebration of mediocrity?

But it remains your responsibility to bring everybody together to draw up a set of plans to move issues forward. You must stay focus to rebuilding, saving, restoring, defending, or rescuing what's left to salvage. Never mind that you keep slipping, fading, eroding, or vanishing in the maze of issues. Stick to your guns come hell or high water. It's called persistence! Take the proverbial first step. The tide waits for no man!

Pension obligation bond

Retirees are reportedly split on whether the NMI should float pension obligation bond (POB) to retire current debts of some \$320 million.

Assuming this option materializes, the act is basically a replacement of an old debt with a new one. It's a quick return to square one. Most importantly, it doesn't retire paying off the Fund's liability.

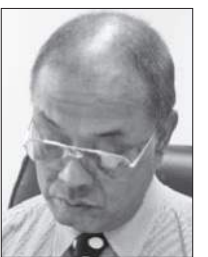
Indeed, in making its case to float bond the NMI could layout how it plans to pay for the loan. It includes projections of new revenue streams, figures that are at best, projections. Now, what if down the road revenue streams decline? This has happened in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, when it couldn't pay its bond of some \$390 million.

When revenue goes south, the next step is the imposition of more taxes to make up for future needs to pay off debts. But again how

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.



much tax could be imposed if and when the tax base declines? The issue requires the long thoughtful process lest we end up like Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, that can't pay for its bond loan to the tune of \$390 million.

The NMI needs to buckle down to growing the economy so it steers clear of quick fixes. It needs to critically review whether it still could afford a cushy retirement program mutilated financially by trigger-happy politicians who ignored the need for seed funding for 32 years. The current debt of \$320 million is a tale that we've been living beyond our means. It's time to domesticate spending, including a complete overhaul of the Fund to ensure long-term sustainability.

Miscellany:

As we sink deeper into bankruptcy, options for additional revenue streams present themselves but entrenchment has prevented our seeing opportunities right in the midst of the deepening mess.

Instead, we bluffed saddling private industries with fees and taxes while it struggles to deal with costly utilities and imposition of the new minimum wage. Why are we convinced we can increase revenues when more businesses have joined the exodus of foreign capital?






Isn't this triggered by the huge increase in doing business here in view of more fees, taxes and punitive policies recently hurled against private industries? Or does this make any sense at all? Isn't it time to recoil to figure out the culprit in the exodus of foreign and local investments?

It seems though that these issues are way above the heads of legislators sashaying in and out of their office. Any plans for economic recovery? Or is it another strange contraption beyond your vocabulary or perception of concepts? And in your hands is our future?

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Palau	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80

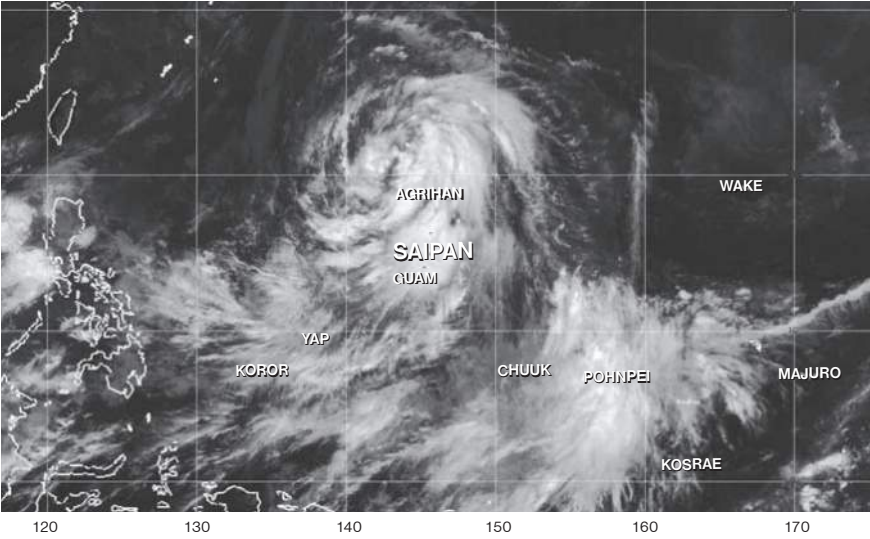
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 56
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 50
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 74
London	Rain	▲ 56 ▼ 47
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 91 ▼ 65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 55
Miami	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 77
New York	Showers	▲ 70 ▼ 65
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 67
Paris	Showers	▲ 64 ▼ 53
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 60
Rome	Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 60
Salem	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 39
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 58
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 56
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 75 ▼ 69
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 71

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:23 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
10:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
9:51 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Maliksi (20W) is centered 415 miles north-northwest of Saipan near 20N143E moving northwest at 15 mph with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found east of the center across the Mariana Islands within 120 miles of a line from 14N145E to 21N146E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found farther away from the center between 11N and 24N from 140E to 151E. For more information on Tropical Storm Maliksi, see bulletins issued by Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW and advisories issued by National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM. A monsoon trough extends eastward through 14N130E through a circulation centered north of Yap at 12N139E then continues northward to Tropical Storm Maliksi. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring across Yap state and the Republic of Palau within 325 miles of a line from 12N135E to 7N135E to 7N143E. A weak circulation is centered just east of Pohnpei near 7N159E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over Pohnpei within 100 miles of line from 8N158E to 3N158E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found in a larger area from east of Chuuk to Kosrae within 250 miles of a line from 3N157E to 9N157E to 9N163E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:06 PM	8:22 AM
Thursday	8:50 PM	9:11 AM
Friday	9:37 PM	10:01 AM
Saturday	10:25 PM	10:50 AM
Sunday	11:15 PM	11:37 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 23, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:45am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:20am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
U2608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7	OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Econ recovery likely—benefiting election winner

WASHINGTON (AP)—Eventually, the economic recovery will pick up steam—whether Barack Obama or Mitt Romney is in the White House.

That's what many economic outlooks project. And the president—and the party occupying the Oval Office—will reap some of the benefits.

But first, Obama or Romney, together with Congress, will have to pull back from the widely deplored “fiscal cliff,” the politically created budget abyss facing the nation at year's end.

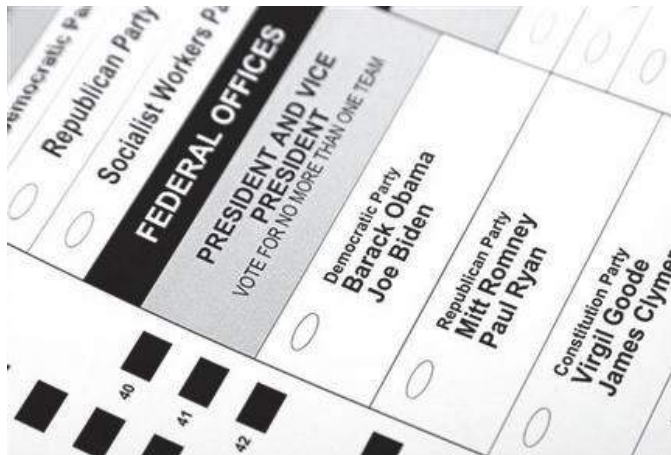
The betting on that ranges from mild optimism to nail-biting anxiety. But most economic analysts agree that if Washington resolves that looming crisis, Americans can expect faster economic growth and lower unemployment.

“Regardless of who is president, if the next president is able to nail down these fiscal issues, then I do think we're off and running,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

That would be welcome news for a nation that has been struggling through a slow comeback from the deepest recession and fiscal crisis since the Great Depression—and needs to shore itself up quickly in the event Europe slips back into recession.

Six countries in the euro-zone—Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Malta and Portugal—already are in recession. And the continent's struggles were underscored Monday by a report that unemployment remained at its record high rate of 11.4 percent in the 17 countries that use the euro.

Politically in the U.S., a strong rebound would be great news for a Romney presidency or an Obama legacy. And it would do much to enhance or repair the brand of either of



AP
In this Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012, file photo, presidential and vice presidential candidate names are seen on a ballot at the Polk County Election Office, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012, in Des Moines, Iowa.

the political parties, which ever holds the White House, before the 2014 congressional elections and the 2016 White House race.

Jared Bernstein, former chief economist for Vice President Joe Biden, said presidents actually have the greatest impact on economies when markets fail.

But, he added: “We will never live in a world where presidents don't take credit of for an improved economy on their watch.”

Both Obama and Romney have placed great stock in their economic recovery plans during this year's campaign, Obama with his “balanced approach” of tax increases for the wealthy and spending reductions, Romney with his spending cuts and lower tax rates.

But many economists say the fate of the recovery rests not so much with those specific plans as it does with a bargain—either at year's end or during the first several months of 2013—by the new or the re-elected president and Congress that avoids steep and immediate spending cuts and an immediate across-the-board tax increase.

Congress and Obama agreed that those drastic deficit-cutting

measures would take effect in January unless lawmakers and the president worked out and approved other proposals in the meantime. That intense debate will resume in earnest almost immediately after the Nov. 6 election.

“If the cliff is resolved in a relatively benign fashion where there is modest fiscal austerity and serious compromise between the two parties, then the economy can go back to its recovery,” said Ethan Harris, co-head of global economic research at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. “If they really do a poor job of handling the fiscal cliff, they may actually kill this potential rebound.”

How will that question be resolved?

Republicans have been adamant that no solution should include a tax increase, even on higher income taxpayers. Romney has embraced that stance. But in a recent panel discussion, Romney economic adviser Kevin Hassett pointed out that the countries that have been most successful at reining in their deficits have been the ones that accomplished it with a mix of 85 percent cuts and 15 percent tax increases.

had been carefully evaluated and would be continuously monitored. But Schneiderman alleges that Bear Stearns failed to do either.

Honda recalls 600,000 Accords to fix faulty hoses

DETROIT (AP)—Honda is recalling 600,000 Accord midsize cars in the U.S. and Canada to fix a faulty power steering hose that can leak fluid and cause a fire. The recall affects Accords with V-6 engines from the 2003 through 2007 model years. Honda has a report of one fire but no injuries or crashes. The five-passenger Accord is consistently among the top-selling vehicles in the United States, mainly because

of its reputation for reliability and fuel economy. For years it has been the nation's second-best-selling car, beaten only by the Toyota Camry.

Toys R Us to offer price matching in stores

NEW YORK (AP)—Toys R Us will offer a price matching guarantee on all of its toys and products in stores this holiday season, the toy seller said Monday. The offer follows the chain's free layaway and toy reservation programs, and is the latest attempt for the company to draw in customers during the bustling holiday season. Retailers, particularly toy sellers, can make up to 40 percent of their annual sales during the last three months of the year.

Nation

Romney presses foreign policy criticism anew

BURLINGTON, Mass. (AP)—Amid violent flare-ups in the Middle East, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney is trying to prove his own readiness to be commander in chief and force President Barack Obama to answer for turmoil in places like Libya, where terrorists killed the U.S. ambassador on the anniversary of 9/11.

Romney advisers argue that the stepped-up foreign policy criticism dovetails with a key piece of his central argument: Obama is in over his head, and the country will be worse off if he gets a second term.

Yet, there's a disconnect between what Romney and his team are talking about nationally and what he is running on in the states, where his TV advertising is largely focused on the economy and jobs—voters' No. 1 issue—ahead of Wednesday's presidential debate. All that's leaving Romney open to criticism that his campaign is searching for a winning pitch just one month before the election and with voting under way in many states.

“Our country seems to be at the mercy of events rather than shaping them. We're not moving them in a direction that protects our people or our allies. And that's dangerous,” Romney wrote in a column published Monday in *The Wall Street Journal*.

The Obama campaign reacted forcefully, calling Romney's foreign policy stances “incoherent” and “reckless, erratic and irresponsible.”

Romney running mate Paul Ryan piled on, telling radio host Laura Ingraham that Obama's administration hasn't given the public the full story on the circumstances that led to the death of U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens in Benghazi, Libya.

“It's really indicative of a broader failure of this administration's foreign policy and the crisis that is taking place across the Middle East,” Ryan said. “It is clear the administration's policy unraveled.”

Romney's intense focus on foreign policy is intended to undercut what the Obama campaign has seen as the president's ironclad international affairs credentials—and send a message to voters that they can trust the Republican on foreign policy despite limited experience. To that end, Romney's advisers said he's planning a major foreign policy speech, to be delivered sometime after Wednesday's debate.

Obama campaign spokeswoman Jen Psaki was dismissive of the argument.

“There is no op-ed or no

speech which we've heard he may or may not give at some point that is going to change the view of the American people

that he has been reckless, erratic and irresponsible on foreign policy issues every time he has had an opportunity to speak to them,” Psaki told reporters in Henderson, Nev., where Obama is preparing

for the debate.

White House press secretary Jay Carney said Romney's op-ed “contains no specifics or an alternative,” adding that most of the positions Romney was advocating “are no different from what the president is actually doing.”

One possible exception is Iran, Carney said, where Romney appears to oppose U.S. policy of economic sanctions and diplomatic isolation.

“The alternative is war,” Carney said. “As the president has said, if Gov. Romney and other critics are advocating that position (war against Iran), they ought to say so clearly.”

Foreign policy is the latest in a series of political openings that Romney has tried to exploit in recent weeks, as he has fallen behind the president in polls in key battleground states and in national surveys.



Romney

Justices open big term with new human rights case

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court plunged into its new term Monday with a high-stakes dispute between businesses and human rights groups over accountability for foreign atrocities. The next nine months hold the prospect for major rulings on affirmative action, gay marriage and voting rights. The term that concluded in June set a high bar for drama and significance, and the new one holds considerable potential as well. Cases involving some of the most emotional issues in American life are likely to be decided

after voters choose a president and new Congress next month.

Meeting on the first Monday in October, as required by law, the justices entered the crowded marble courtroom for the first time since their momentous decision in late June that upheld President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

The decisive vote in favor of Obamacare, Chief Justice John Roberts was smiling as he led the justices into the courtroom just after 10 a.m. The conservative chief justice will be watched closely in the coming

months for any new indications of a willingness to side with the court's liberals, as he did in the health care case.

The lineup of justices was the same as in June, but the bench had a slightly different look nonetheless. Justice Antonin Scalia was without the glasses he no longer needs following cataract surgery over the summer.

The exterior of the building also looked different. The familiar columns are sheathed in scaffolding, which itself is covered in fabric made to look like the iconic front of the court.



ACROSS THE NATION

SUV slams into packed van in Okla., killing 7

ELMWOOD, Okla. (AP)—An SUV veered across a highway median in the Oklahoma Panhandle early Wednesday and slammed head-on into an oncoming van full of men headed to work at a Texas meatpacking plant, killing both drivers and five of the six van passengers, authorities said. The 2012 Chevy Suburban was moving fast and passed a couple of trucks on U.S. Highway 412 just before it crossed the center line and collided with a 2003 Ford van near

Elmwood, Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Betsy Randolph said. She said investigators were trying to determine whether the SUV was speeding. “It was pretty horrific,” Randolph said. “The lieutenant I talked to said he'd worked in Beaver County for 24 years, and he's never seen anything like that. When you have that many bodies involved in a crash, it's terrible.”

\$2 million in gems, gold stolen from Calif. museum

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—

California investigators searched Monday for thieves who made off with an estimated \$2 million in precious gems and gold from a mining museum in the Sierra Nevada foothills during a brazen daytime robbery. But they didn't get away with the biggest prize of all—the nearly 14-pound Fricot Nugget, a giant crystalline gold mass unearthed in the Gold Rush era. During their attempt to grab the massive nugget, the robbers triggered an alarm that alerted authorities who swarmed the museum but were unable to nab the thieves.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

NY AG sues JPMorgan over Bear Stearns securities

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York attorney general's office has hit JPMorgan Chase with a civil lawsuit, alleging that Bear Stearns perpetrated massive fraud related to residential mortgage-backed securities that it sold prior to its 2008 collapse and subsequent sale to the New York bank. The suit is the first to be filed under the auspices of the RMBS Working Group, set up by President Barack Obama to investigate and prosecute alleged misconduct that contributed to the financial crisis. NY AG Eric T. Schneiderman alleges that Bear Stearns led investors to believe that the loans in its RMBS portfolio

Asia



Officials check on a half submerged boat after it collided Monday night near Lamma Island, off the southwestern coast of Hong Kong Island Tuesday Oct. 2, 2012.

Boat sinks off Hong Kong after collision; 36 dead

HONG KONG (AP)—The Hong Kong government says 36 bodies have been recovered from a boat packed with holiday revelers that sunk after colliding with a ferry.

The statement says more than 100 people rescued after the vessel sank were sent to hospitals and nine had serious or critical injuries.

The boat was carrying about 120 people when it hit a ferry late Monday near Lamma Island off the southwestern coast of Hong Kong Island. The ferry had slight damage but was able to return to port.

The government statement released Tuesday morning said people still may be missing and search efforts on the sunken

vessel are continuing.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

A boat packed with holiday revelers collided with a ferry and sank off Hong Kong, killing 25 people and injuring dozens more, authorities said.

The boat was carrying staff members of a utility company and their family members to Hong Kong's famed Victoria Harbour to watch a fireworks display Monday night on the long holiday weekend celebrating China's National Day and mid-autumn festival.

It was carrying about 120 people when it collided with the ferry near Lamma Island off

the southwestern coast of Hong Kong Island. The government said 25 bodies had been recovered by Tuesday morning and the search was continuing.

More than 100 people were rescued and sent to hospitals, and nine had serious or critical injuries, the government's statement said.

"There was a boat that came in close and crashed," said Yuen Sui-see, director of operations at Power Assets Holdings Ltd., which was using the vessel to take staff on the outing. "After the crash, the other boat continued away, it didn't stop." He denied the vessel was overloaded, saying it was carrying 121 passengers and three crew but had capacity for more than 200 passengers.

North Korea: Spark could set off nuclear war

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A North Korean minister lashed out at the United States on Monday, saying its "hostile" policy has left the Korean peninsula a spark away from a nuclear war.

Vice Foreign Minister Pak Kil Yon told the U.N. General Assembly that the Koreans have become "the world's most dangerous hotspot" and blamed the "hostile" policy of the United States toward North Korea.

Pak said "the vicious cycle of

confrontation and aggravation of tension is an ongoing phenomenon on the Korean peninsula, which has become the world's most dangerous hotspot where a spark of fire could set off a thermonuclear war."

Pak also accused the United States of seeking to use force to occupy the entire Korean peninsula—divided between the communist North and democratic South—and "use it as a stepping stone for realizing its strategy of

dominating the whole of Asia."

He said the United States has finalized scenarios for a new Korean War and "is waiting for a chance to implement them."

In an apparent reference to North Korea's nuclear arsenal and massive military, Pak said the nation's "patience and self-defensive war deterrent," have prevented U.S. military provocations "from turning into an all-out war on the Korean peninsula."

Ospreys fly to US base on Okinawa despite protests

TOKYO (AP)—Six Osprey hybrid aircraft were transferred to a U.S. base on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa on Monday—and were greeted by hundreds of protesters outside the fence showing their concern about the plane's safety.

The aircraft—which takes off like a helicopter and flies like an airplane—flew safely from Iwakuni, on the Japanese main island, to U.S. Marine Corps

Air Station Futenma, according to Capt. Justin Jacobs with the Third Marine Expeditionary Force in Okinawa.

All told, 12 of the MV-22 Osprey aircraft will be stationed at Futenma, which is surrounded by residential areas. It isn't clear when the remaining six will be moved.

Many Okinawa residents oppose their deployment after crashes in Morocco and Florida earlier

this year, saying they are not safe to fly in Okinawa's crowded environment. An incident in North Carolina last month that officials called a "precautionary landing" further aggravated the sentiment.

Japan's central government gave the green light for operations to begin after a visit last month by U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, who said Washington is confident in the safety of the aircraft.

World

Syrian minister accuses US of stoking 'terrorism'

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Syria's foreign minister brought his regime's case before the world Monday, accusing the U.S. and its allies of promoting "terrorism" and blaming everyone from neighbors and extremists to the media for escalating the war—except the Syrian government.

Addressing ministers and diplomats from the United Nations' 193 member states as fighting spread in the historic Old City of Aleppo, Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem lashed out at calls in Washington and in Arab and European capitals for Syrian President Bashar Assad to step down as interference in Syria's domestic affairs.

Al-Moallem accused extremists of prolonging the crisis and denounced countries such as the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey for supporting the opposition's "terrorism."

"This terrorism which is externally supported is accompanied by unprecedented media provocation based on igniting religious extremism sponsored

by well-known states in the region," he told the U.N. General Assembly.

Members of the opposition said it was common knowledge that these neighboring Arab countries were supporting and financing the rebels, but said the Assad government had brought it upon itself after cracking down on protests that began peacefully 18 months ago.

"It is the regime's mindless, brutal and criminal, military crackdown that pushed the Syrian people to ask for help from the international community, from NATO and from the devil himself if necessary to protect them," Haitham Manna, a Paris-based veteran Syrian dissident who heads the external branch of the National Coordination Body opposition group, told The Associated Press.

Al-Moallem's speech followed his meeting with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in which the U.N. chief "raised in the strongest terms the continued killings, massive destruction, human rights abuses, and aerial and artillery attacks com-

mitted by the government," according to a statement by his press office. "He stressed that it was the Syrian people who were being killed every day, and appealed to the Government of Syria to show compassion to its own people."

The Syrian foreign minister in his address invited the opposition to "work together to stop the shedding of Syrian blood" and said that a Syrian-led dialogue could produce a "more pluralistic and democratic" country.

The opposition called the speech a classic case of regime "propaganda," and dismissed his calls for dialogue as not genuine.

"While the brutal and delusional Syrian regime continues to pay lip service to diplomacy, its actions over the past 18 months have demonstrated beyond any doubt that they have no interest in meaningful reform or dialogue" Radwan Ziadeh, a U.S.-based spokesman for the chief opposition group, the Syrian National Council, said in a statement.

Palestinians: 2 teams to probe Arafat's death

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Investigators from France and Switzerland will conduct parallel probes into the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Palestinian officials said Monday. His remains will be exhumed, at a date kept secret, to give each team a chance to draw samples to test for poisoning.

The two teams are acting separately on behalf of Arafat's widow Suha Arafat and the Palestinian Authority, who each had misgivings about the other's investigation.

The push to re-examine Arafat's 2004 death come after a Swiss lab's recent discovery of polonium-210, a deadly radioactive isotope, on clothes said to belong to the Palestinian leader. This fueled

new suspicions of poisoning.

The French team is composed of criminal investigators acting at the request of Suha Arafat, while the Palestinian Authority invited the Swiss lab to also come to examine the remains of the longtime leader and determine how he died eight years ago. A spokesman for neither team could be reached immediately for comment.

Arafat's death in a French hospital in November 2004 has remained a mystery for many. While the immediate cause of death was a stroke, the underlying source of an illness he suffered in his final weeks has never been clear, leading to persistent, unproven conspiracy theories that he had cancer, AIDS or was poisoned.

Suha Arafat has long had rocky relations with the Palestinian Authority's president Mahmoud Abbas, and the probes' potential to be politically explosive appears to have fueled more distrust. She had asked the Palestinian Authority to suspend any other probe or ensure that it was coordinated with the French investigation. Some Palestinian officials, for their part, said they were unhappy with the way Suha Arafat had forced a foreign investigation on them.

While their probes are separate, the French and Swiss investigators are set to visit the grave together and will only be allowed one chance to draw samples, said Tawfik Tirawi, head of the Palestinian committee investigating the death.

WORLD BRIEFS

Early returns show losses for Georgia ruling party

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—Early returns and exit polls in a heated parliamentary election show that Georgian voters have turned against President Mikhail Saakashvili and the party that has been in power for almost nine years. Saakashvili acknowledged that the popular vote on Monday went to the opposition Georgian Dream coalition led by billionaire businessman Bidzina Ivanishvili, whose supporters in the capital

celebrated throughout the night. But the president insisted that his party would retain its majority in parliament since nearly half of the seats are chosen in separate direct elections.

Hugo Chavez vows stronger socialist drive

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez pledged to redouble his efforts to create a socialist system if re-elected in Sunday's election, saying the next six-year term would bring bigger changes. Since

taking office in 1999, Chavez has increased the government's role in the economy and has nationalized private businesses including cement plants, banks and retail stores. He has also used the country's oil wealth to bankroll social programs including cash benefits for poor families and state-run grocery stores. "We've laid the foundations of 21st century socialism and today we launch, well, the second cycle," Chavez said. "We'll launch the second socialist cycle, from 2013 to 2019, with much more strength."

Campus Life

CAMPUS BULLETIN

SSHS to distribute mid-progress report tomorrow

Saipan Southern High School will distribute term 1 mid-progress report for school year 2012-2013 tomorrow, Oct. 4, 2012, from 3pm to 6pm. Parents and guardians are requested to please pick up their child's progress report from their teacher's classroom. Come meet your child's teachers and be involved in helping them succeed. **(PR)**

Isla Center for the Arts presents Ceramic Celebration VI

Ceramic Celebration VI is an Isla Center for the Arts fundraising event featuring beautifully hand-crafted ceramic pieces created by Lewis Rifkowitz, a University of Guam Fine Arts Professor of Sculpture/Ceramics and other local ceramic artists. The event is sponsored by the University of Guam College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

Opening night is Thursday, Oct. 11, from 6pm to 9pm and runs through Nov. 16. The event will be held at Isla Center for the Arts located at House #15, Dean's Circle, in the University of Guam Campus. Ceramic Celebration VI is open to the public and admission is free.

Lewis Rifkowitz earned a B.F.A. from the Kansas City Art Institute and an M.F.A. in ceramic sculpture from Montana State University. Rifkowitz joined the University of Guam Fine Arts faculty in 1989 and throughout the years has taught courses in sculpture, ceramics, three-dimensional design, and environmental art. In addition to Rifkowitz, other local ceramic artists will also participate in this fundraising event.

With over 100 one of a kind ceramic pieces in a variety of shapes and colors available for purchase, it is a perfect start for your holiday shopping! Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used for programming at the Isla Center for the Arts.

For more information, call 735-2965 or email islacenter@gmail.com. **(PR)**

NMC offices closed and classes canceled on Oct. 3

Northern Marianas College employees will be participating in the upcoming NMC Strategic Planning Summit on Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012. All NMC offices on Saipan will be closed on this day. All classes scheduled for this day have also been canceled; students are advised to contact their instructors for make-up class time. For any campus emergency, contact NMC Security at 234-5498 Ext. 1911. For more information about upcoming events, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. **(NMC)**

Pa. college revives sororities after 79-year ban

By KATHY MATHESON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Nearly 80 years after women at Swarthmore College voted to ban sororities because they were too exclusive, a group of female students will reinstate Greek life this spring after weathering months of polarizing debate on campus.

The future sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta pledge that members will be welcoming, diverse and dedicated to civic engagement and community service. The sorority will also provide valuable national networking opportunities, supporters say.

But some students at the liberal arts school near Philadelphia contend not much has changed since 1933. Sororities are still elite clubs, they say, and flout the college's Quaker roots emphasizing inclusion.

"It's just a really stupid system that shouldn't exist," senior Maya Marzouk said. "I think Swarthmore is better than that."

The highly selective college with about 1,500 students prides itself on rigorous academics, open dialogue and a commitment to social justice. It was co-founded in 1864 by Lucretia Mott, a prominent abolitionist and activist for women's rights.

Campus officials said they are simply facilitating the creation of a group that students want and that Title IX demands. The federal regulations require colleges to provide equal opportunities for men and women, and Swarthmore has two fraternities.

College senior Julia Melin said she helped to start Not Yet Sisters—the group that will become



In this Sept. 24, 2012 photo, Swarthmore College student Maya Marzouk poses for a photo on the campus of Swarthmore College, in Swarthmore, Pa. Nearly 80 years after women at Swarthmore College voted to ban sororities because they were too exclusive, a group of female students will reinstate Greek life this spring after weathering months of polarizing debate on campus.

Kappa Alpha Theta—out of a sense that female students needed better mentoring and wider professional connections. Swarthmore's alumni association is relatively small, Melin noted.

Sorority critics "thought it was more about having a space to party in, and it's really not about that at all," said Melin, from nearby Abington, Pa. "It's about having a social support system during college and after college."

The Greek revival at Swarthmore appears to be unique, said Nicki Meneley, executive director of the National Panhellenic Conference. But she also noted that, as higher education enrollment has grown, sorority membership overall is at an all-time high: More than 300,000 undergraduates belong to chapters at about 665 campuses across the

U.S. and Canada.

At Swarthmore, a Kappa Alpha Theta chapter originally established in 1891 was the first sorority on campus. Several other sororities followed, and by 1931 about 77 percent of the college's female students belonged to the Greek system, according to school archives.

Yet some groups discriminated against Jews. That led student Molly Yard—who later

became president of the National Organization for Women—to campaign for a campus-wide female vote on abolishing sororities. It passed in 1933. (A male vote in 1951 to abolish fraternities was defeated.) This year, sorority opponents including Marzouk, a psychology major from Great Neck, N.Y., circulated a petition to demand a similar referendum; they say the student body had little input in the decision to revive the clubs. Heated discussions in campus news outlets have included sug-

gestions to form a "women's union" instead, or even to ban Greek groups entirely.

But Title IX is the sorority's trump card, school officials said.

Liz Braun, the dean of students, noted Swarthmore has a written agreement with the national Kappa Alpha Theta organization to ensure the new chapter will uphold the college's founding principles of diversity and inclusivity. In this case, that includes allowing students who identify as female to join the sorority, regardless of their actual gender, Braun said.

"Each chapter takes on kind of its own flair ... based on the campus it's embedded in," she said.

That's partly why concerns about possible hazing and binge drinking have not been a large part of the conversation. Swarthmore is not considered a party school; Braun noted that Kappa Alpha Theta is dry and has a strict anti-hazing policy.

Also, the college's two fraternities are not residential, though they host events at rented houses on campus. About 6 percent of male students are affiliated with the groups.

Melin said about 30 to 40 students have expressed an interest in joining the sorority, which will have its first official intake in the spring.



is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions :

Position (1) HOTEL RESORT OPERATIONS MANAGER

Qualifications: College degree graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience in hotel management. Plan, direct or coordinate activities of an organization or department that provides lodging and other accommodations. Also, responsible for developing, establishing and maintaining marketing strategies to meet organizational objectives. Able to work independently. Good organizational and planning skills are essential. Ability to work in remote field office for several months at a time as necessary. Accountable for customer satisfaction and providing high quality service in representing company and also has the ability to speak, read and write in a foreign language preferably in Japanese. Must have knowledge in Front Office Operations, Sales and Marketing strategies, Housekeeping operations and other hotel operations. Also, takes full responsibility of the entire hotel operations in the absence of the General / Resident Manager.

Position (1) FRONT OFFICE MANAGER

Qualifications: College degree graduate with a minimum of 2 years experience as a Front Office Manager. Coordinates front office activities of hotel and resolves problems arising from guest's complaints, reservation and room assignment activities, and unusual request and inquiries. Assigns duties and shifts to workers and observes performances to ensure adherence to hotel policies and established operating procedures. Confers and cooperates with other department heads to ensure coordination of hotel activities. Answers inquiries pertaining to hotel policies and services. May patrol public rooms, investigates disturbances, and warn trouble makers. May interview and hire applicants. May receive and process advance registration payments. May send out letters of confirmation or return checks when registration cannot be accepted. Applicant must be fluent and knowledgeable in speaking, writing and reading in Chinese.

Applications can be obtained from Kanoa Resort's security office located on the Hotel's Backside. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than October 05, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is located next to Saipan World Resort Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

POI Aviation invited qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

Administrative Services Officer

College degree with 4 years progressive administrative experience.

Accounting Manager

College degree with financial management major plus 3 years of progressive financial management experience.

Lead Aircraft Service Agent (2)

High school diploma or its equivalent with 5 years experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning.

Lead Ramp Agent (2)

High school diploma or its equivalent with 5 years experience in ramp, cargo loading and unloading operations.

Aircraft Maintenance Technician (3)

Graduate of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering program with 2 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft.

Aircraft Maintenance Technician (3)

Graduate of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering program with 2 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft.

Lead Aircraft Maintenance Technician

AS degree in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering with 4 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft.

Ground Support Equipment Mechanic (2)

Diploma for technical / vocational course on automotive / diesel engines with minimum of 2 years experience in repair and overhaul of gas and diesel engines for automobiles and other specialized motorized equipment.

Ground Support Equipment Mechanic Supervisor

Diploma from technical / vocational course on automobile gas / diesel engines with minimum 4 years experience, 2 of the 4 years in a supervisory capacity, in electrical, electronic, pneumatic, hydraulic system and gas / diesel engine maintenance.

Lead Passenger Service Agent (3)

High school diploma or its equivalent with 4 years experience in passenger or customer service.

Load Planning Specialist

Associates degree with 3 years of aircraft ramp operation experience with specific airline certification as a load planner.

Passenger Service Manager

AA / AS degree with 8 years of progressive airline passenger service experience, with 3 of 8 years in supervisory capacity.

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 11, 2012
For more details, contact the Human Resources Office at 288-0360.
Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

Life&Style

'Family Guy' creator MacFarlane to host Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Family Guy” creator Seth MacFarlane says being invited to host the 2013 Academy Awards “was the greatest call that I could have gotten in show business.”

Oscar telecast producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron announced Monday that MacFarlane will host the 85th annual Academy Awards ceremony in February.

Meron called the 38-year-old entertainer “the most unbelievable, consummate host choice we could think of.” Zadan said they have long admired MacFarlane’s talent, “so the idea of actually doing the biggest thing that we’ve ever produced with him is just beyond belief. We’re so excited.”

This is the first Oscar production for Zadan and Meron, whose credits include 2002 best picture winner “Chicago” and the musical TV show “Smash.”

MacFarlane is best known for his envelope-pushing animated TV shows “Family Guy,” “American Dad!” and “The Cleveland Show.” He made his big-screen directorial debut earlier this year with the irreverent R-rated comedy “Ted,” which took in more than \$420 million at the box office. He also hosted the season opener

of “Saturday Night Live” last month and released an album of big-band tunes from the 1940s and ’50s last year.

This is his first time hosting the Academy Awards, which he called “an overwhelming privilege.”

So will this be an edgier ceremony than in years past? Zadan and Meron prefer to describe the approach as “fresh.”

They’ll draw on MacFarlane’s skills as “a terrific writer and performer and singer and dancer,” Zadan said. “We’re going to utilize every one of them and see where we come out, but we hope to do something brand new and fresh based on the fact that we have a brand new and fresh host.”

MacFarlane said his favorite Oscar hosts are the classics of yesteryear: Johnny Carson and Bob Hope.

“There’s a lot of questions about edging-up the show, but I am a big fan of the kind of old-fashioned showmanship that those hosts embodied,” he said. “I think that’s really, in a perfect world, the balance that should be struck: Something that’s fun and relevant and genuinely funny, but at the same time has a spine of good, old-fashioned

showmanship, which is what the Oscars deserves.”

He acknowledges it’s a challenging task.

“This is something very different than what I’ve done in the past, so the trick is going to be to stay honest to what it is that I do but also adapt to this particular show, because this is obviously a very special show with very specific requirements,” he said. “We want to find a nice balance.”

It’s too soon to say if any writers or animated characters from MacFarlane’s other shows will be involved with the Oscar telecast, but music will definitely play a part.

“It would be criminal to have an Oscars without music,” MacFarlane said.

Producers said they’ll present their ideas to their new host in the coming weeks and the team is “full speed ahead to create a show.”

The 85th annual Academy Awards will be presented Feb. 24 at the Dolby Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center in Los Angeles. Nominations will be announced Jan. 10—nearly a week earlier than typically revealed and coming ahead of the Golden Globe Awards.

MacFarlane said being invit-



This Sept. 23, 2012 file photo shows Seth MacFarlane presenting an award at the 64th Primetime Emmy Awards at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

ed to host the Oscar show “was just an absolute thrill and I’m very much looking forward to it.” He even posted a video on YouTube Monday of him sharing the big news with his dad.

In the minute-long clip, MacFarlane says he’s been asked to host the Oscars, and his dad responds by offering him some

“barely used” bathing suits.

“I’ve invited you here today to tell you I’m hosting the Oscars,” MacFarlane says. “This should be huge news to you.”

“Of course, it’s wonderful news,” his father replies. “But also the fact that you’re getting almost brand-new bathing suits is also good news.”

When MacFarlane seems unappreciative, dad snatches back the swimsuits and says, “I’m going to give these to Billy Crystal.”

Crystal hosted the last Oscar show. Other recent hosts include Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin, James Franco and Anne Hathaway, Hugh Jackman, Jon Stewart and Ellen DeGeneres.

Abe, ‘Argo,’ ‘Les Mis’ jockey for Oscar attention

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood is in its usual hazy head space when it comes to the Academy Awards race.

The dilemma: Handicapping the players when so many of the potential front-runners have yet to show their game face.

Films such as Ben Affleck’s “Argo” and Joaquin Phoenix and Philip Seymour Hoffman’s “The Master” already are proven contenders through rapturous reactions from festival crowds or early theatrical audiences. A handful of summer releases have a shot at best-picture slots—but that depends on the movies still to come.

Late prospects include Steven Spielberg’s “Lincoln,” with Daniel Day-Lewis as the 16th president; “The King’s Speech” director Tom Hooper’s “Les Misérables,” the

musical adaptation of Victor Hugo’s classic that features Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe and Anne Hathaway; “The Hurt Locker” director Kathryn Bigelow’s “Zero Dark Thirty,” chronicling the hunt for Osama bin Laden; and “The Lord of the Rings” creator Peter Jackson’s “The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey,” the first in his three-part “Rings” prelude.

Jackson’s three “Lord of the Rings” films earned best-picture nominations, and the finale won. “The Lord of the Rings” is a heavyweight drama of a fantasy compared to the more playful “Hobbit,” which could hurt the new trilogy’s chances among Oscar voters, who usually lean toward weightier stories.

But since “Lord of the Rings,” academy overseers expanded the best-picture cat-

egory from five nominees to as many as 10 to bring in a broader range of films, including action blockbusters that often get overlooked for awards.

A big test plays out this season on that effort to make the Oscars more relevant to mainstream moviegoers. Academy bosses cited the best-picture snub of 2008’s critical and commercial sensation “The Dark Knight” as a key example for expanding the category.

With reviews nearly as ecstatic as its predecessor’s, the Batman finale “The Dark Knight Rises” may have a better shot depending on the number of nominees, which will range from five to 10 based on voting results among the nearly 6,000 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

‘Beasts of the Southern Wild’ ineligible at SAG

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The independent-film hit “Beasts of the Southern Wild” will be ineligible for the Screen Actors Guild Awards because it was not made under provisions of the union’s contracts, guild officials said Monday.

The producers have until Oct. 25 to bring the film into guild compliance to become eligible for the awards, though that likely would mean paying the actors more money.

A spokesman for Fox Searchlight, which released the film domestically, said the company would not try to bring “Beasts” in line with SAG contract rules



This June 25, 2012 file photo shows Benh Zeitlin, director and co-writer of the movie “Beasts of the Southern Wild,” arriving at the premiere of the movie at the Joy Theater in New Orleans.

to qualify for the awards.

Director Benh Zeitlin cast locals in his film set in rural Louisiana, including his two stars, first-time actors Quvenzhané Wallis as a 6-year-old wild child, and Dwight Henry as her father. “We appreciate and honor the spirit in which the film was produced and the way it was made,” Fox Searchlight Presidents Stephen Gilula and Nancy Utley said in a statement. “It’s truly an original.”

“Beasts” is a critical darling, winning top honors at the Sundance Film Festival, so sitting out the Jan. 27 SAG Awards will not necessarily hurt its Academy Awards prospects.

Funeral Announcement

Franklin Dela Cruz Iglecias

(Ankie Boy)

Born on March 6, 1985 and was called to eternal rest on September 17, 2012 at 7:15am in Wishard Memorial Hospital, Indianapolis, Indiana.

In his new life, he will now be joining our dearly departed loved ones:

Grandparents: Domingo C. & Lourdes P. Dela Cruz

Grandfather: Estanislao Palacios

Our angels: Juan Dela Cruz Iglecias
Anna Maria B. Iglecias

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Parents: Francisco Manglona Iglecias
Elizabeth Dela Cruz Iglecias

Grandparents: David S. & Matilde I. Celis
Merced S. Palacios

Siblings: Kalani Dela Cruz Iglecias
George Dela Cruz Iglecias & Willina Borja (Noah & Micah)
Byron Dela Cruz Iglecias & Ayessa Tereyama (Scott & Elli-Lou)
Matilde Dela Cruz Iglecias
Vince Dela Cruz Iglecias & Doris Castro (Colin Frank)
Travis Dela Cruz Iglecias & Macy Agoun (Aleina)

Daily mass is offered at 6:00pm at San Antonio Church.

On Thursday, October 4, 2012 the body will arrive at 3:05PM and will be escorted to Borja's Funeral Home.

On Friday, October 5, 2012 at 7:30AM, our beloved's remains will be escorted from Borja's Funeral Home to San Antonio Church for viewing and last respects.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00AM followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your kind expressions of support and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Frank M. & Liz DLC. Iglecias and Family

In Celebration of Her New Life

JOSELYN TARA MAFNAS SABLAN

Better Known as "Jos"

Born: October 13, 1988 | Died: September 20, 2012

Joselyn was called from this life on
Thursday, September 20, 2012 at the age of 23.

Predeceased by:

Paternal Grand Parents:

Josepha Sablan Delos Santos
William Cabrera

Maternal Grand Parents:

Leocardio Camacho Mafnas
Sabina Castro Mafnas

Aunts and Uncles:

Calistro Castro Mafnas
Bruce Magofna Mafnas
Ramon Sablan Delos Santos
Lalani Delos Santos Lizama
Grace Aldan Delos Santos
Tundra Cabrera

God Father:

Konrad Sablan Reyes

Her Memories will live forever in the hearts of her

Father: Joseph Mariano Sablan

Mother: Rosa Mafnas Sablan

Brothers: Eric Sabino Sablan/Keomi (Ceoni),

Keith Bryan and Alan Joseph

Sister: Sasha Mae

Reared Sister: Erika Francine Mafnas

Grand Parents:

Joaquin Pangelinan Delos Santos
Maria Celis Delos Santos

God Parents:

Baptismal: Frances Castro Mafnas

Confirmation: Tayna Belyeu Camacho

*She is also survive by numerous uncles, Aunts, niece,
nephews, cousins and friends.*

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00am at Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

Everyone is invited to join us in the lighting of the Candle Vigil at the
Airport Road upon her arrival on Friday, October 5th at 12:50am and her
remains will be escorted to Borja Funeral Home.

On Saturday, October 6th, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm there will be a family viewing.

On Tuesday, October 9th at 7:30am, her body will be escorted from Borja
Funeral Home to Mt. Carmel Cathedral for the viewing and last respects.
Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00am followed by the interment
at the Veteran's Cemetery in Marpi.

Your presence, thoughts & prayers are greatly appreciated.

From

Joseph Mariano & Rosa Mafnas Sablan, Children and Family



Mother-in-law wants eulogy while she can still control it

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law is insisting that her adopted son and I each write a eulogy for her, so she can read it before she dies. We don't think her request is appropriate and have told her so, but she keeps insisting. What do you think?

TO WRITE OR NOT TO WRITE



Dear Abby

DEAR T.W. OR NOT T.W.: I think your mother-in-law is starved for compliments, and that's why she's pressuring you. Ask her what she would like to have included in her eulogy, and then do some creative writing. When the time comes to read it, she won't be around—and you can say whatever you'd like with no repercussions.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter "Sally's" husband, "Donny," left her when she was three months pregnant with their second child. She had to move back in with us to make ends meet, and Donny says it's "too strange" to come here to visit his son. He hasn't paid a nickel of child support since he left Sally. He's seeing another woman and wanted to introduce her to my grandson, but Sally said he would have to pick him up at our house, so he refused.

Three days ago, Donny emailed Sally and asked her to call him when she goes into labor so he and his girlfriend can be there. She replied that he is welcome to come after the baby is born, but the girlfriend is not welcome. He emailed my daughter back that she is immature, and she needs to get used to the idea that the girlfriend is going to be involved in their children's lives and she should "get over it."

We are horrified that he thinks this is OK. What do you think? How do we handle this?

UPSET GRANDMA IN MISSOURI

DEAR UPSET GRANDMA: It appears your daughter married a self-centered loser who has been shirking his responsibility to his child. Because there is no reason to think this won't continue when their second child arrives, Sally should start talking with a lawyer, NOW.

As to the email he sent your daughter, she should refuse to take the bait and not respond to it at all. Sometimes silence sends a more eloquent message than anything one could say. It goes without saying that Donny and his girlfriend should not have a front-row seat for the birth of this baby.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We are a youthful senior couple who plan to remain single. We like to travel together. People assume that we are married. I know these incidents will increase on any trip we take.

A straightforward, "Oh, we're not married," seems to cause awkwardness, especially with the age group that will be on these trips. I'd like to avoid lying or allowing the faulty assumption to exist. Any suggestions for the appropriate response?

COUPLE ON THE GO IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR COUPLE ON THE GO: Couples in your age group who cohabit without marriage often have financial reasons for it. And not all married couples share the same last name. Because you feel you must reveal your single status, the appropriate response is the one you are giving, and you don't have to apologize for it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Drew Barrymore gives birth to her first child



NEW YORK (AP)—Drew Barrymore is a mom.

The 37-year-old actress and her husband, Will Kopelman, welcomed a baby girl named Olive Barrymore Kopelman on Sept. 26.

A statement from Chris Miller at Barrymore's production company, Flower Films, said the baby was born "happy, healthy and welcomed by the whole family." The statement didn't provide specifics on the birth.

Barrymore wed Kopelman, an art consultant, in June. He's the son of former Chanel CEO Arie Kopelman.

She is the granddaughter of screen legend John Barrymore.

This May 10, 2012 file photo shows Will Kopelman, left, and Drew Barrymore attending the New York City Ballet's 2012 Spring Gala performance in New York.

AP

Police: Man talked to 'Dr. Phil' before confessing

HOUSTON (AP)—A man accused of killing his ex-girlfriend in Houston and then driving hundreds of miles to dump her body in a West Texas oil field taped an interview about the case with the "Dr. Phil" show two days before confessing to investigators, police said Monday.

Mark Augustin Castellano, a 37-year-old computer technician, has been charged with murder in the Sept. 22 death of 31-year-old Michelle Warner.

Houston Det. Fil Waters said Castellano initially told investigators that Warner had run out on him and their 3-year-old son. Her family later reported her missing to police.

Castellano, who was staying with his son at his parents' home in Odessa in West Texas, had kept in contact with police and agreed to return to Houston on Sunday

to speak with investigators. During a two-hour interview, Castellano told investigators he killed Warner after an argument in their apartment in which he grabbed her by the throat and apparently snapped her neck, Waters said.

Waters said Castellano also indicated he had taped an interview for the "Dr. Phil" show on Friday.

"I thought he was kidding, but it was the real deal," Waters said. "He talks to Dr. Phil, provides Dr. Phil as I understand it, with the same information he's been providing everyone else."

In a brief statement, Stacey Luchs, a spokeswoman for the "Dr. Phil" show said, "Mr. Castellano sat down for an interview with Dr. Phil in Texas just before his confession to law enforcement, late last week. Dr. Phil also conducted an interview with Ms. Warner's family for this show,

which is currently scheduled to air on Thursday."

The statement did not say what Castellano talked about during his interview.

He is scheduled to have his initial court appearance on Tuesday. Court records did not list an attorney for him.

Waters said Castellano told investigators his son was in the apartment when he killed Warner but did not witness the slaying. Afterwards, Castellano drove his son to this parents' home before returning to Houston for Warner's body, the detective said. He put it in a plastic container, placed that in Warner's car and then drove back to Odessa.

"He spends a day and a half trying to figure out what he is going to do with Michelle. She, in the meantime, is in the backseat of the car, which is parked at his

parents' house," Waters said. He added that Castellano's parents didn't know Warner's body was in the car outside their home.

Eventually, Castellano decided to take the body to nearby Midland, where he dumped it in a ditch in an oil field, covering it with some dirt.

"His comment was, 'I didn't really try to hide her. I'm surprised you all haven't found her already,'" Waters said.

Odessa police and FBI agents found the body. An autopsy is pending to confirm Warner's identity and determine the cause of death.

"Had he not confessed, we would still be stuck," Waters said. "His timeline was plausible. We had no physical evidence. We had our suspicions."

The couple had a history of fighting, he said.

Vegas police cite Hilton boyfriend in battery case

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Police in Las Vegas say the 21-year-old model boyfriend of celebrity socialite Paris Hilton was cited after a scuffle with another man at a Las Vegas Strip nightclub.

Officer Laura Meltzer said River Viiperi was ticketed for misdemeanor battery and released after police were called about 3:30 a.m. Monday to the Wynn Las Vegas resort.

Meltzer says a man complained that Viiperi hit him during a verbal argument. No serious injuries resulted.

Hotel officials declined to comment.

Meltzer didn't identify the complainant, and she says police officers didn't talk with the 31-year-old Hilton, who had been with Viiperi at the club.

Viiperi has appeared in photo advertisements for several international clothiers.



AP

In this Sept. 13, 2012 file photo, television personality Paris Hilton arrives at a "Lady Gaga Fame" fragrance launch event at the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Bob Barker feted for lifetime of help for animals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bob Barker has spent millions of dollars helping elephants, bears, chimps and other animals.

For decades when he was host of "The Price Is Right," he ended every show with a plea to viewers to spay or neuter their pets.

Animal Defenders International will present him with the Lord Houghton Award on Oct. 13 at a West Hollywood ceremony.

ADI President Jan Creamer says Barker was chosen not only for a lifetime of service, but for his generosity and for repeatedly taking the animal message to Congress.

The award brings Barker international recognition, but he says it means so much because of the respect he has for ADI. He says the group is one of the finest animal protection organizations in Europe.

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Attorney for Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

LYDIA VALERA PARKS, Petitioner,	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0087 FCD
vs.	NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT
STEPHEN FRANCIS PARKS, Respondent.	

NOTICE is hereby given that Petitioner Lydia Valera Parks, through counsel, Robert T. Torres, has filed a Motion for Default Judgment in the above-styled case. The hearing on said Motion will be heard on October 29, 2012, at 1:30pm, by Honorable Judge Kenneth Govendo at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950.

Dated on September 27, 2012.

Sabrina, Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk
Superior Court

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Saipan Tribune

Tigers clinch AL Central championship



KANSAS CITY, Mo.
(AP)—Miguel

Cabrera had four hits, including a homer during a five-run sixth inning, and the Detroit Tigers held off the Kansas City Royals 6-3 Monday night to clinch the AL Central title.

Gerald Laird added a bases-loaded double, Rick Porcello (10-12) pitched shutout ball into the sixth inning and Jhonny Peralta went deep off Bruce Chen (11-14) to help Detroit reach the postseason in consecutive years for the first time since 1934-35.

After hanging over the dugout railing the entire ninth inning, the Tigers streamed onto the field and behind the pitchers' mound to celebrate their accomplishment the moment Jose Valverde got Alcides Escobar to ground out to shortstop with a runner on second for his 35th save in 40 chances.

The Tigers (87-73) will have the worst record among AL division champions, which means they'll open the playoffs Saturday at home against the division winner with the second-best mark.

Yankees 10, Red Sox 2

In New York, Robinson Cano, Curtis Granderson, Russell Martin and Mark Teixeira homered in a nine-run second inning, and New York routed Boston to open a one-game lead over Baltimore in the AL East with two games to play.

Baltimore lost at Tampa Bay and dropped into second place, prompting cheers from the Yankee Stadium crowd when the final score was posted before the ninth inning. The Yankees, who clinched their 17th playoff berth in 18 years on Sunday, would ensure their 13th division title in 17 years by sweeping the three-game series against the Red Sox.



Detroit Tigers players celebrate following a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Monday, Oct. 1, 2012. The Tigers defeated the Royals, 6-3, and clinched the AL Central title.

Rays 5, Orioles 3

In St. Petersburg, Alex Cobb allowed two hits over seven innings, helping Tampa Bay keep its slim playoff hopes alive with a victory over Baltimore.

Ben Zobrist hit his 20th homer and Chris Gimenez had a two-run double off Wei-Yin Chen (12-11) as the Rays pulled away from a 1-all tie in the seventh. Cobb (11-9) yielded a fourth-inning single to J.J. Hardy and a solo homer to Matt Wieters that tied it in the seventh.

Blue Jays 6, Twins 5, 10 innings

In Toronto, Anthony Gose singled home the winning run in the 10th inning and Toronto rallied to beat Minnesota.

Adam Lind went 4 for 4 and Brandon Lyon (4-0) worked out of a bases-loaded jam to earn the win in front of a season-low crowd of 12,359.

White Sox 11, Indians 0

In Cleveland, White Sox rookie Hector Santiago allowed one

hit in seven shutout innings to beat Cleveland, but Chicago was eliminated from postseason contention when Detroit defeated Kansas City.

Santiago (4-1), who began the season as the team's closer, struck out a season-high 10. The Indians' only hit off the left-hander was Shin-Soo Choo's two-out single in the third.

Athletics 4, Rangers 3

In Oakland, Coco Crisp made a big hit to help put the Athletics in the playoffs for the first time in six years, and they remained in contention for a division crown by beating the first-place Texas Rangers 4-3 on Monday night.

"We're just a bunch of young guys having fun," Crisp said, standing in water wearing soggy socks. "You wouldn't think all these rookies would be doing things like this."

Angels 8, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Mike Trout had four hits and drove in three runs in Los Angeles' 8-4 victory over

the Seattle Mariners night but it was not enough to keep the Angels in the playoff chase.

The Angels, with a high payroll and high expectations as the season started, were eliminated from the wild-card race after the Oakland Athletics' victory over the Texas Rangers.

Phillies 2, Nationals 0

In Washington, thanks to strong pitching from Gio Gonzalez and Stephen Strasburg, Bryce Harper's burst of energy and Adam LaRoche's slugging, the Nationals won enough from April through September that even a loss on the first day of October could not stop them from clinching the NL East.

Despite being beaten 2-0 by the Philadelphia Phillies on Monday night, the Nationals earned their first division title since moving from Montreal in 2005, because the second-place Atlanta Braves lost 2-1 at the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Pirates 2, Braves 1

In Pittsburgh, the Atlanta Braves' hopes of winning the National

League East ended with a loss to the Pirates that clinched the division title for the Nationals.

The Braves, who needed to sweep the Pirates and have first-place Washington drop three games to Philadelphia to tie for the division lead, will instead be the top wild card team and host the wild card game Friday.

Cardinals 4, Reds 2

In St. Louis, Jaime Garcia homered off Bronson Arroyo and pitched into the seventh inning, helping the Cardinals clinch a tie for the second NL wild card and spoil Dusty Baker's return from a mini-stroke.

The defending World Series champions have won 11 of 14 and lead the Dodgers by two with two games to play.

Dodgers 3, Giants 2

In Los Angeles, Elian Herrera singled in the go-ahead run in the bottom of the ninth inning, lifting the Dodgers to a victory over the Giants that kept their post-season hopes alive.

The Dodgers' sixth consecutive victory tied a season high and kept them two games behind St. Louis for the second NL wild card. Their win prevented the Cardinals from clinching a playoff berth.

Astros 3, Cubs 0

In Chicago, the Cubs got their 100th loss of the season when Lucas Harrell threw six shutout innings to lead the Astros to a win.

Four Houston pitchers combined on a two-hitter and Fernando Martinez homered for the third consecutive game. The Astros avoided their franchise-record 107th loss in the opener of their final series in the National League before they move to the American League next season.

Marlins 3, Mets 2

In Miami, Giancarlo Stanton hit his 37th homer, and Rob Brantly hit a tiebreaking RBI double in the eighth inning to help the Marlins beat the Mets.

Heath Bell (4-5) pitched a scoreless eighth inning and Steve Cishek pitched the ninth for his 15th save in 19 chances.

Brewers 5, Padres 3

In Milwaukee, Carlos Gomez, Rickie Weeks and Jonathan Lucroy all hit home runs to lead the Brewers to a win over the Padres.

Shaun Marcum gave up two runs and six hits in six innings as Milwaukee clinched a winning season for the second straight year.

Rockies 7, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Chris Nelson drove home Tyler Colvin to start a four-run rally in the 13th inning and the Rockies hung on for a victory over the Diamondbacks.

Paul Goldschmidt sent the game into extra innings when he homered off Rockies closer Rafael Betancourt with one out in the ninth to make it 3-3.

Howard ready to learn from Kobe with Lakers



EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) —Dwight Howard flattened the creases across the chest of his brand-new gold jersey and joined his teammates for a group photo, joking around and laughing even while saying cheese.

The superstar center might be an eight-year NBA veteran, but Monday still felt like the first day of school.

And it was, in a way: Howard is just getting started on his real NBA education from the Los Angeles Lakers and Kobe Bryant, who is just as eager to teach as Howard is to learn.

"I know he's going to be tough on me, but I expect that, and I want him to be that," Howard said. "I want to be that guy. I'll take all the heat

he's going to give me, because I know at the end of the day, it's going to make me a better player and a better person. ... I'm willing to go through that process, learn from one of the greatest ever to play the game, and I think it'll be great."

Howard and Bryant wore their gold uniforms together for the first time Monday as the Lakers opened training camp with a revamped roster and sky-high expectations. After two straight seasons ending in the second round of the playoffs, a remarkable offseason shuffle by Los Angeles general manager Mitch Kupchak and owner Jim Buss has put the Lakers in prime position to contend for their 17th NBA championship.

Even while Metta World Peace crowed about the Lakers'

depth and Pau Gasol expressed his gratitude for staying with the Lakers after popping up in innumerable trade rumors, everybody's eyes were on Bryant and Howard, the Lakers' unquestioned leader and the supremely gifted big man he has already appointed as his heir.

"This is my team, but I want to make sure that Dwight, when I retire, this is going to be his," Bryant said. "I want to teach him everything I possibly know, so that when I step away, this organization can ride on as if I never left."

Even while both men say the situation is ideal, the entire NBA is eager to see how this teacher-student partnership will work.

The 34-year-old Bryant is a ferocious perfectionist with famously little patience for team-

mates who aren't serious about winning - including Andrew Bynum, the sometimes-immature All-Star center dispatched in the deal for Howard.

The 26-year-old Howard raised league-wide doubts about his maturity during his strange, protracted departure from Orlando over the past two years - and don't forget, Howard has just one season left on his contract.

What could possibly go wrong? Nothing, according to Howard.

"Me and Kobe have talked many times about it, and I think it'll be great," Howard said. "Learning from Kobe, I think, is something that I need for myself, so I can grow as a player and as a person. He's been through almost every situation possible, on the court and off the court."

Two-time NBA MVP Steve Nash, Gasol and World Peace joined Howard and Bryant at the Lakers' training complex Monday, the new starting five posing for seemingly every camera in Hollywood. Antawn Jamison, Chris Duhon, Steve Blake, Jordan Hill and Jodie Meeks were just offstage, all thrilled to be supporting players in this superstar-driven production.

"I'm sure we'll draw a little bit of attention from time to time this year," said Nash, who will chase his first ring after the Lakers acquired him from Phoenix. "I think probably from the outside, it appears this is going to be a cinch. We've got a bunch of great players, we'll come together and win 60-something games and go (into the playoffs) as a contender, but it's going to be a big challenge for us. With so many personalities and dominant players, to

try to find a cohesion and understanding is going to be a big challenge."

After carrying the entire Magic franchise on his broad shoulders for most of the past eight years, Howard has more help than he ever imagined on the West Coast. The Lakers also appear remarkably balanced, from Nash's peerless playmaking and World Peace's defensive prowess to the selfless supporting play of Gasol and Jamison, who is absolutely thrilled to be on a good team after 15 years with the NBA's also-rans.

"On its face, it's the best talent I've been around," Bryant said. "Whether that translates into a winning a championship remains to be seen, but just on paper, you're talking about defensive player of the years, MVPs, All-Stars—guys who are at the top of their position and have been at the top for a long time."

Bears get past Cowboys with defense, Cutler



ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Lance Briggs plucked the ball out of the air and started rumbling down the field. As the Chicago linebacker approached the end zone, he fully extended his right arm over his head with the ball in his hand.

Briggs and the rest of those 30-something Bears defenders showed Tony Romo and the Dallas Cowboys how much they can still play.

Charles Tillman, another of the five defensive starters in their 30s, also returned an interception for a touchdown in the Bears' 34-18 victory Monday night.

"A lot of our older guys are playing really well right now because we understand everything so much more," said Briggs, whose 74-yard run was his first interception return for a TD since 2005. "Whether we've lost a step or some people believe we've lost a step, we make up for it in knowledge."

Though Romo was only sacked once, on the game's first series, he was pressured relentlessly and threw five interceptions. That matched his career high, first done five years ago in his first full season as a starter.

"Just outstanding play by our defense," Bears coach Lovie Smith said. "It seemed like everybody had a say in it. How about Lance Briggs? You guys didn't know he could run that fast."

Briggs' interception came in a wild two-play exchange of turnovers midway through the third quarter.

Bears quarterback Jay Cutler was nearly flawless after half-time, when he completed 11 of 12 passes for 219 yards and two touchdowns. That included a 34-yard score to Devin Hester to start the half and a 31-yarder to Brandon Marshall with 6 1/2 minutes left.

Cutler was 18 of 24 overall



Chicago Bears cornerback D.J. Moore (30) tackles Dallas Cowboys tight end Jason Witten (82) during the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Oct. 1, 2012, in Arlington, Texas.

for 275 yards. Marshall had seven catches for 138 yards.

Major Wright, who returned an interception for a touchdown in Chicago's last game, had two of the five interceptions. D.J. Moore has nine career interceptions, three of them against Romo after getting another one Monday night.

"We have a pretty good feel for what their front is going to do, what their pressures were, what their coverages were," Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said. "They're just very good at it. It's not very exotic."

Chicago's first fumble of the season came when Cutler was sacked by DeMarcus Ware and Victor Butler recovered at the Bears 27.

On the very next play, Romo was trying to escape pressure when he was hit from behind by Henry Melton. The ball popped forward into the air and Briggs grabbed it and scored to put the Bears (3-1) ahead 24-7.

"I haven't run that long in a long time, that far," Briggs said.

Once again, the Cowboys (2-2) are a .500 team. They are also one of the lowest-scoring teams in the NFL with only 65 points going into their bye week, and then play four of their next five games on the road.

"This has to be a wakeup call for us. I don't say that nonchalantly. It has to be," Cowboys tight end Jason Witten said. "You can't bounce back and forth like this and try to com-

pete come December-time. You can't do it. We have been in that situation before. You cannot do it. And we know that, and we'll get better."

Since the start of the 1997 season, Dallas is 122-122 in regular-season games. They have won only one playoff game in that span after three Super Bowl titles in a four-year span in the first half of the 1990s.

Romo finished 31 of 43 for 307 yards and a touchdown. When the Cowboys got the ball back in the final 3 minutes, Kyle Orton got his first action since the veteran quarterback signed a free agent deal during the offseason to be Romo's backup.

Orton threw a 5-yard TD

pass to Witten with 34 seconds left, capping a 10-play, 89-yard drive.

Witten, the seven-time Pro Bowl tight end who uncharacteristically had several drops the first three games after missing most of the preseason with a lacerated spleen, had 13 catches for 112 yards.

The regular referees wrapped up the first weekend of games since returning to work. It was a week after that disputed Monday night ending that gave the Seattle Seahawks a victory over the Green Bay Packers.

Referee Walt Anderson had to go under the hood to review three plays in the Bears-Cowboys game, but none that will cause the kind of uproar from a

week earlier.

Chicago opened the second half with a 73-yard drive capped by Cutler's 34-yard TD pass to Hester, who raced passed rookie cornerback Morris Claiborne and had to make a lunging catch at the goal line.

Despite a screen shot frozen on the huge video board over the field that raised the question of whether the ball might have hit the ground as Hester rolled over, Anderson confirmed the on-field ruling of touchdown after reviewing the play.

Later in the third quarter, when Alshon Jeffery was going down after a catch, Claiborne stripped the ball and started running the other way. It was originally ruled a fumble, but the replay showed the receiver still controlled the ball when his elbow hit the ground.

In the fourth quarter, Dallas contended that the ball had been tipped before a pass interference call in the end zone. That was confirmed by replay, bringing up fourth down for Robbie Gould's second field goal.

The interception by Tillman in the second quarter, on a ball thrown right into his hands by Romo when intended receiver Dez Bryant was still running down the field, came on the third play a 43-yard field goal by Gould.

"Tony saw it one way. Dez saw it another way," Garrett said.

Bryant had eight catches for 105 yards.

Dallas responded to that quick 10-point surge by going 80 yards on nine plays, capped by Romo's 10-yard TD pass to Miles Austin with 14 seconds left in the half.

Pro Bowl running back Matt Forte returned to the Bears lineup after missing the last game with a sprained right ankle and being limited in practice all week. He had 13 carries for 52 yards.



LONDON (AP)—Not even the family of Seve Ballesteros could have imagined a Ryder Cup finish quite like this.

It was after midnight in Spain when a European team inspired by the "spirit of Seve" and captained by his close friend Jose Maria Olazabal completed its improbable comeback victory over the United States in Medinah, Ill.

"What happened yesterday went beyond sports," Ivan Ballesteros, Seve's nephew and vice president of the Madrid-based Seve Ballesteros foundation, told The Associated Press on Monday.

"We want to thank Jose Maria for remembering Seve not just throughout the week but for always keeping his memory alive. I would say that not even Hollywood screenwriters could

Europe hails Ryder Cup 'Miracle of Medinah'

have imagined what happened yesterday."

Seve Ballesteros died in May 2011 from a brain tumor, and the team played in his honor, overcoming a 10-4 deficit to win 14 1/2-13 1/2 after an epic day of singles matches.

Ballesteros was everywhere Sunday. His image adorned European bags and shirts, his name was sung by Europe's fans well into the night and his spirit was invoked by players wearing the navy trousers and white polo shirt that were the Spaniard's trademark.

To a man, Europe's players said it was Seve's memory they were attempting to uphold.

"Lots of feelings and emotions were revived again," the Madrid-based Seve Foundation, which collects funds to promote brain tumor support, said in a

statement. "It was great to see the European team showing that fighting spirit Seve always showed."

Olazabal was emotional again Monday morning as he cradled the cup and recalled his former playing partner.

"If someone had to write a script for it, that would be the ideal one," Olazabal told Britain's Sky Sports. "For that to happen, Seve had to have something to do with it."

Britain, already spoiled by an unprecedented summer of sporting success this year that included the London Olympics and the country's first Tour de France victory, added another memorable triumph to the list.

"After London 2012, Bradley Wiggins, Andy Murray and the rest, we were due an anticlimax. But this sporting year

is incapable of dullness, one-sidedness, hollow drama," the Daily Telegraph said.

Britain had heroes everywhere - from Luke Donald beating Bubba Watson in the opening singles to the tight victories secured by Rory McIlroy and Lee Westwood.

Justin Rose beat Phil Mickelson with a birdie at the 17th that was perhaps the key turning point Sunday. And then there was Ian Poulter, who started Europe's charge by making five straight birdies in the final match of Saturday's fourballs to take a crucial point and leave the score at 10-6 going into the final day.

"I'm officially taking two years off and I'll see you at the next one," said Poulter, who won a match-high four points and was labeled the "modern-

day Seve" by McIlroy.

It was a German, Martin Kaymer, who rolled in a putt on the 18th hole to beat Steve Stricker on Sunday and ensure that Europe retained the cup.

"I never had such a feeling before," Kaymer said. "I'll never forget it and I'll be telling my grandchildren about it."

"Wunderbar," blared the headline in Britain's Daily Express.

With a nod to Europe's economic troubles, the Irish Times said: "Martin Kaymer, a cool German, gave Europe a massive bailout that contributed to the most unlikely comeback in Ryder Cup history."

Belgium - hardly a golfing stronghold - reveled in having one of its own in the winning lineup. Nicolas Colsaerts was a virtual unknown in Belgium a few months ago, but Europe's

biggest hitter graced the front pages of two of the country's main newspapers Monday after making a memorable debut that included beating Tiger Woods in Friday's fourballs.

Twitter was awash with Ryder reaction from sports personalities past and present who stayed up late to cheer on Europe from afar.

"The victory was epic!" Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal, a keen golfer, tweeted.

Paul Casey, an English golfer who played in three Ryder Cups from 2004-08, added: "Woke up this morning and it wasn't a dream. The most amazing Ryder Cup ever! Well done lads, especially JMO."

Four-time Olympic rowing gold medalist Matthew Pinsent of Britain offered his own take.

"Ironical that in the cold light of morning the US played better in the team formats than we did and EUR were great 'individually,'" Pinsent tweeted.

RECORD

From Page 24

200 IM), and Kensuke Kimura

(800m freestyle).

In the boys 17 to 18, Tenorio's 9:58.65 in the 800m freestyle has been accepted as a record,

as no previous mark was entered in the said age group. Only Anneka Sakovich's 9:50.52 (Aug. 18, 1995) in the same event is

listed in the age group.

Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura congratulated the four outstanding swimmers and he

hopes that more records will fall this season. Kimura had earlier challenged his swimmers to go for 11 markers and Tsunami

Saipan bets will have another chance of meeting their goals next month when NMSF sanctions another local meet.

CLOSE

From Page 24

Angie Mister and Norma Ada crossed the finish line together, submitting 1:25:24, while Quyuhi Nguyen came in at second with a time of 1:46:09.

In the long course, Nap Dizon delivered as expected, clocking in at 1:13:35, just over a minute faster than Willy Barbo, who logged 1:14:53. Cesar Fortaleza

rounded out the Top 3 with his time of 1:15:38 and was followed by Ben Babauta (1:23:31), Paul Plunkett (1:25:52), Derek Chambers (1:26:39), and Joshua Berger (1:33:41).

Heather Kennedy was the lone female rider in the road bike long course category and completed the race in 1:26:25.

In the men's MTB short course, Jerome Diyco bested seven other bikers after posting 1:06:37.

Edwin Calage and Jerome's father, Jay, came in at second and third with times of 1:09:05 and 1:13:49, respectively. Other finishers were Rosalio Quintos (1:13:09), Alexander Bateman (1:17:25), Samson Tan (1:31:08), Gerald Rangamar (1:34:42), and Steve Nutting (1:44:31).

In the MTB long course, Charlie Sendin stunned the favored Butch Sublemente, as the former timed in at 1:22:47 against the lat-

ter's 1:25:46. Tyce Mister completed the Top 3, tallying 1:33:33, just one second ahead of Larry Malig. Manny Sitchon also raced in the MTB long course division and clocked in at 1:48:46.

Over 30 riders joined the weekend event, which was supported by Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Pacific Islands Club, IT&E, Bike Pro, Powerade and Coca-Cola, D&Q Saipan, Gold's Gym, Safety First, Megabyte, Brabu Pharmacy,

Saipan Sea Ventures, and Marianas High School students.

The MTB long course brought bikers to Banzai Cliff, Banzai Trail, Santa Clause Lane, Autobahn Trail, Bird Island, road to Suicide Cliff up to the top of Kimikaze Trail, back to Autobahn Trail, Santa Clauss Lane, Banzai Trail, and then to Pau-Pau. For the MTB short course, riders cruised past the first five trails and then went to Grotto

before returning to Pau-Pau.

The road bike long course took a different route at the start of the race as bikers headed right to Mobil Station before going to Banzai, Bird Island, Grotto, Suicide Cliff, back to Banzai, and then to the start/finish line. The road bike short course had the same direction, but bikers did not go to Suicide Cliff and headed back to Banzai and Pau-Pau after the Grotto trip.

KANOA

From Page 24

for their key roles on their respective teams and were presented with medals during a brief awards ceremony at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium late last month.

Though Ichiban failed to win a single game in the Kanoa caging,

as the team was bannered by newcomers, Pena stood out among the rookies, consistently leading her squad in scoring. She averaged close to 10 points per game and had her best performance during their second round meeting with IDK Who, firing 21 markers. In the semifinals against UCC, Pena tallied 10 points.

Abrams averaged 13 points in

the playoff game for the eventual champion UCC, drilling 14 in their 62-32 spanking of Ichiban before nailing 12 in 66-54 title win over Kiss My Pass. The UCC enter also averaged in double figures in the double-round robin regular season and had 32-point explosion in their first win (54-51) over Kiss My Pass.

The diminutive Rastguiry stole

the thunder from veteran teammate Irish Pagarao. She had a breakout game against Ichiban in the battle for third place, logging 21 points. Rastguiry's highest output (25 points) was also recorded against Ichiban, as she lifted IDK Who to a 61-46 victory in the second round.

Not to be outshone was Castillo, who led Kiss My Pass in

the playoffs. She had 17 points in their 55-38 semis win over IDK Who and then sizzled for 23 markers in their title loss to UCC. The Marianas High School junior also matched Abrams' season-high score (32 points) during the Kiss My Pass-UCC first outing on Sept. 7.

Meanwhile, beside the four outstanding players, organizer

of the Kanoa caging also recognized the most improved players in the fall league.

Making the honors list are Ichiban's Vanessa Bartolo and Shaina Santiago, UCC's Madeleine Alegre and Denise Samson, IDK Who's Cielo Olivos and Angela Iriarte, and Kiss My Pass' Mikky Vargas and Jayda Mendoza.

HOE

From Page 24

vals. The host team clocked in at 9:57 on the first run, which went down as its fastest time of the day. It slowed down a little in the second heat, finishing in 10:50, but still held off its opponents in the final heat with a burly 10:07 in the final run.

The SPC ladies also turned in their fastest time on the first

leg with a 10:45, and although they came up a little short in the last two heats, they did a good job maintaining their individual pace. SPC slowed things down just a hair and finished up the day with an 11:15 and 11:16.

The Hoe Lokahi men bested their SPC counterparts in their 500-meter sprint event and clinched the win after the first two heats. Hoe Lokahi timed in at 2:32 and 2:38, before dropping the last

set to its rival. SPC clocked in at 2:37 and 2:44 in the first two runs, about five or six seconds behind the former, but managed to finish the day on a high note with its 2:39 mark, a nose ahead of Hoe Lokahi (2:40), while SOCC (2:47/2:58/2:54) played the caboose in all three sets.

SPC may have managed a moral victory early in the day, but the Hoe Lokahi guys bit down and pulled off the sweep

in the 1,500-meter event. Hoe Lokahi turned in a 9:06 and a 9:08 and easily took the first two sets and saved enough fuel in the tank to run the table.

SPC came in well over a half-minute behind the host crew in the first two heats with times of 9:44 and 9:55 and was denied the checkered flag in the final trek, as Hoe Lokahi's steady 9:10 mark in the final heat bested SPC by six seconds.

The Hoe Lokahi Canoe Club is a non-profit organization and has been organizing monthly canoe races with other local paddling clubs as part of its training regiment for the 14th Annual Micronesian Cup outrigger series, which will be held on Saipan at the Kanoa Resort on Oct. 27 and 28.

Between 25 to 30 teams or over 200 participants from Japan, Hong Kong, Palau, Guam,

and the CNMI are expected to turn out for the event.

For more information about the Micro Cup, contact event coordinator Richard Sikkel at rsikkel@pticom.com or visit www.microcup2012.blogspot.com.For more information about the Hoe Lokahi Canoe Club, contact Leilani Nielsen at heavymana@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page.

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PAGE 21

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PAGE 22

24 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Record start for Tsunami Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan kicked off the 2012-2013 season on a high note, marking six age group records at the Northern Marianas Swimming Federation-organized meet last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.



Miku Tammy earned three records for Tsunami Saipan, while Ryuto Yanai, Shigeki Tenorio, and Angel Marie Tan made one each.

The 10-year-old Tammy clocked in at 31.28 seconds in the 50m freestyle race to shatter the CNMI 9 to 10 age group mark (31.87 seconds), which she incidentally owned and posted on July 14, 2012. Tammy also reset her 100m backstroke record (1:21.49) logged on April 14, 2012 after she submitted 1:19.13 in the same event of last weekend's first meet of the season.



Then in the 200m butterfly, Tammy's 2:52.64 has been recognized by NMSF as a new entry to the CNMI record book. With her 200m butterfly time included on the list, Tammy now has three records in that stroke, as she also holds the 50m (35.61 seconds/May 26, 2012) and 100m (1:20.69/May 26, 2012) butterfly marks. She also owns 11 of the 14 records in her age group.

In the girls 13 to 14 category, Tan's 35.10 seconds in the 50m backstroke was added to the record books, as she debuted in the higher age group this season.

Yanai also climbed up to an older age category (boys 9 to 10) and his 3:06.90 in the 200m butterfly has been included on the list, putting him in the company of record holders Kento Akimaru (50m, 100m, and 200m freestyle, and 200m breaststroke), Kaito Yanai (400m freestyle, 200m backstroke, 50m and 100m breaststroke, 50m and 100m butterfly, and

**See RECORD on
Page 23**

Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy races in the 100m backstroke event of last Saturday's meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

UCC's Rachel Abrams pulls up for a shot in the paint against Kiss My Pass' AJ Garon, right, during their title game in the Kanoa caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Kanoa caging names 'Fantastic 4'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Dubbed as the "Fastastic 4," were Ichiban's

Organizers of the 2012 Kanoa Resort Women's Fall Basketball League recognized the outstanding players from the four participating teams in the double-round robin caging.

Friendly Joy Pena, UCC's Rachel Abrams, IDK Who's Negahr Rastguir, and Kiss My Pass' Jeralyn Castillo. The four were cited

See KANOa on Page 23

Close races in Marchitti Challenge

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marchitti Challenge was already in the books with the top finishers of last Saturday's races posting close wins in their respective divisions.



In the men's road bike short course category, Noni Eugenio made it to the finish line at PauPau Beach at the 59:00 mark, just 21 seconds ahead of Renioe Gaviola.

The third placer (name withheld) timed in at 1:00:20. Other finishers were Ariel Lansangan (1:02:52), Joel Felizar (1:06:48), Nelson Pagadian (1:08:51), and Wendel Ciano (1:16:00).

In the women's division, **See CLOSE on Page 23**



MTB bikers head out to the course during last Sunday's Marchitti Challenge.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Hoe Lokahi women's team, in forefront, races against Saipan Paddlers Club's crew in this file photo taken during the May race series at Kilili Beach.

Hoe Lokahi sweeps September series

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Hoe Lokahi Canoe Club's men and women's outrigger crews arose victorious in the group's September race series held last Saturday in the waters of Kilili Beach.

The host club's men's team is composed of Steven Beyer, Kraig Church, Grafton Howard, Ed Johnson, Jack Kabiriel, James Lee, and Frank Villagomez. The women's squad has Rita Bonici,

Elizabeth Church, Melia Johnson, Kaity Mattos, Shelli Neal, Leilani Nielsen, Maria Ortiz, and Rebecca Skeele.

The Saipan Paddlers Club's men's and women's squads also turned out for the event, which consisted of a trio of race heats in both the open 500-meter sprint and open 1,500-meter distance trek categories. The Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club's men's crew also appeared over the weekend, but competed only in the 500-meter sprint.

The Hoe Lokahi lady paddlers swept SPC in all three open 500-meter heats with respective times of 3:11, 2:55, and 2:55. The SPC women put up a good fight, however, and settled for second by an average of just over 10-seconds. SPC's post times read at 3:06, 3:15, and 3:08.

The Hoe Lokahi women kicked it up a notch in the 1,500-meter distance event and crossed the finish line, on average, about a minute ahead of its SPC ri-

See HOE on Page 23